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Kent on Sunday

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Motorists hit by the great price divide at county's fuel pumps

Exclusive by Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE HUGE price divide over what we pay at the pumps for our fuel is exposed today – with some motorists facing a difference of 15p in the cost of a litre of unleaded petrol within the same town.

And that means the difference between the cost of filling up an average tank is close to £10.

So each week cash-strapped motorists are being forced to pay an extra £40 a month if they fail to shop around – or almost £500 a year.

But a major review could spark a huge shake-up in petrol prices, putting many independent pump stations at risk of being forced out of the market, as supermarkets are instructed to be more uniform in their pricing.

Maidstone sees the biggest discrepancy, with a 15p difference in a litre of unleaded petrol and 11p difference for diesel between some petrol stations, according to a fuel price-check at website PetrolPrices.com.

It's a similar picture down the road in Gillingham, with the difference in unleaded as much as 9p and diesel 12p.

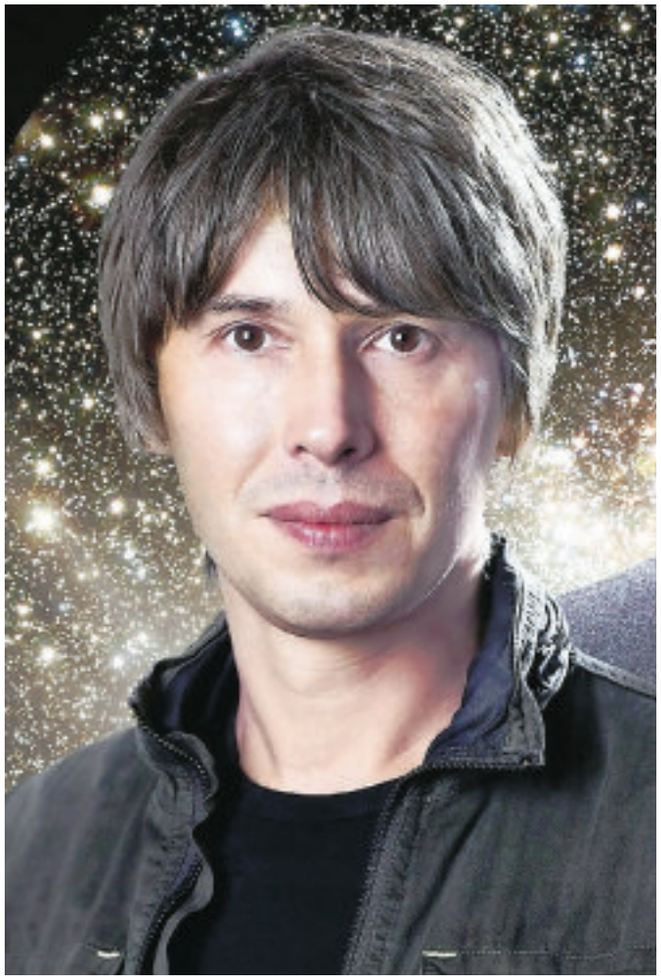
But work is in motion to put a stop to this price divide, thanks to pressure from campaigners, including the Kent-based Fair Fuel UK group, which has prompted a review into petrol costs by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

Findings are due to be released later this month and could prompt a full investigation, resulting in fairer and more transparent pricing across the UK.

There are particular concerns about some supermarket chains pricing their fuel differently in different towns.

Fair Fuel UK campaigner Peter Carroll called the pricing debacle "smoke

Continued on page 2



TV'S STAR TURN

COSMIC: Prof Brian Cox's Stargazing Live saw 1,000 gather at school – **SEE INSIDE**

ENTERTAINMENT

Remembering Bowie's past

DAVID Bowie proved he has lost none of his ability to impress with his return to the music scene this week.

But while the legendary performer has lived a rather reclusive life in New York in recent years, we look back at his formative years growing up in Kent. **PAGE 7**

TRANSPORT

Rail network in major boost

A MULTI-billion pound investment in rail links between Kent and London will be rolled out over the next six years.

But rail chiefs warn there will be a price to pay, in the form of disruption to services.

One major town in the county will even see a new station being built. **PAGE 10**

FILM

Nuclear war film appeal

A BBC director is on the hunt to find the amateur actors who appeared in a controversial BBC drama in the 1960s.

The film depicted a nuclear attack on Rochester and the consequent carnage.

It was deemed so traumatic it was banned for more than 20 years. **PAGE 19**

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INSIDE

- News. 2-27
- Comment/Feedback 28-29
- Kent Remembered 30

INSIDE



The Osmonds join an all-star cast for Boogie Nights show



GREEN GEARS

Kent Weekend

Prince of pies

TV chef Andy Bates tells how his journey on to our screens all began in Kent. SEE PAGE 33

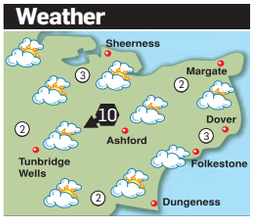
- Food and Drink 32
- Interview 33

LEISURE

Attractions, events, stage, exhibitions, theatre, arts, ... 34-35

- New 2013 39-46
- Business 48-49
- Training and careers. . . . 50
- Driving 51-54
- Jobs & Notices. 55-61
- Sport. 62-63

Weather



TODAY: Cloudy. Light rain, possibly turning wintry later. Light winds. Max temp 0-3C (32-37F). **TONIGHT:** Some clear spells. Chilly. Min temp 0-3C (32-37F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	11.56	6.8	–	–
Margate	00.25	4.8	12.59	4.9
St Mary's	05.30	6.1	17.54	5.8

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 3C	Min -2C
Tuesday	Max 3C	Min -2C
Wednesday	Max 4C	Min -1C
Thursday	Max 5C	Min 1C
Friday	Max 4C	Min 1C
Saturday	Max 2C	Min -5C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

Investigation into fuel price discrepancies may mean end for some independent petrol stations

Continued from front page

and mirrors". In his home town of Folkestone, as well as in nearby Dover, motorists face paying some of the highest prices in Kent due to petrol providers taking advantage of tourists travelling through to the port and Channel Tunnel.

The lowest prices for fuel in these east Kent towns are higher than the most expensive petrol in other parts of the county.

Motorists are hit with costs of as much as 136p per litre for unleaded and 144p for diesel – up to £10 per tank more than buying petrol in other towns in Kent.

Mr Carroll said the petrol market was hard to understand.

He said: "There are independent petrol stations that buy off a distributor – it's up to the owner to decide how much they sell petrol for.

"Where it gets trickier is the multiple supermarket petrol stations, which have huge buying power. If a big supermarket chain turns up where there is another one, then the companies start vying for the market share by changing prices.

"It means people will see petrol at a different price at the same supermarket down the road or in the next town. There's huge concern about that.

"Another thing that confuses people is when two petrol stations with Shell or BP written on them sell petrol at different prices – this is because they're franchises and they can set their own prices.

"The market is difficult to understand – I call it smoke and mirrors."

Rural communities across the county also fare badly, as filling stations in remote areas charge higher prices, knowing there are few or no other places to fill up for miles around.

For others, however, things are not quite so bad.

People living in Dartford, Gravesend and Canterbury see considerably lower pump costs, particularly for diesel, which in some cases is almost 10p lower than in the highest-priced towns.

If findings from the OFT prompt a full investigation, drivers could see pricing become more transparent.

OFT's Claire Hart said one of the issues looked at in the review was whether reductions in the price of crude oil were being reflected in pump prices.

She said they also examined whether supermarkets were making it more difficult for independent retailers to compete and whether there was a lack of competition between petrol stations in remote areas.

"We are keenly aware of continuing widespread concern about the pump price of petrol and diesel and we have heard a number of different claims about how the market is operating," she said.

"The review will help us determine whether claims about competition problems are well founded and whether any further action is warranted."

Mr Carroll says that if the OFT finds there is unfair competition it is likely this will result in certain conditions being applied. This could, however, spell the demise for some independent retailers.

"Some big supermarkets will have to stop having different prices," he said. "Smaller independent stations may be affected by this, though. It could even end up bankrupting some of them."

He added: "The big thing is the public will start to wise up to what is going on."

Petrol prices rose by 38 per cent between June 2007 and June 2012, and diesel prices by 43 per cent.

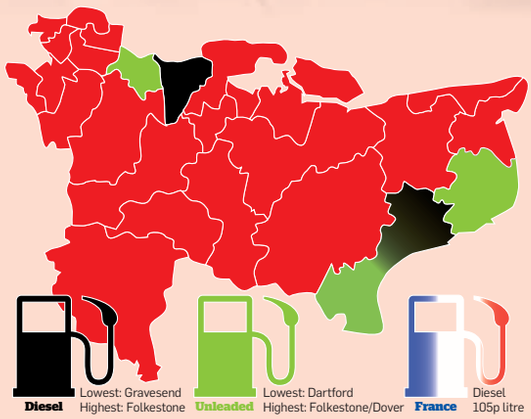
Fair Fuel UK helped stop the Government's planned 3p petrol price hike due this month.

• **Prices are based on an average fuel tank of 55 litres.**

HOW DOES YOUR AREA COMPARE WITH THE REST OF COUNTY?

Area	UNLEADED Average	UNLEADED Highest/lowest	DIESEL Average	DIESEL Highest/lowest
Ashford	132.8	**135.9/130.9**	141.8	**147.9/139.9**
Broadstairs	133.2	**133.9 /131.9**	141.6	**141.9/ 140.9**
Canterbury	131.4	**133.9/128.9**	138.7	**141.9/ 135.9**
Chatham	131.9	**132.9/130.9**	139.2	**139.9/ 137.9**
Dartford	130.7	**132.9/128.9**	137.3	**139.9/ 135.9**
Dover	134.3	**136.9/132.9**	141.2	**141.9/ 140.9**
Folkestone	134.3	**135.9/133.9**	142.5	**144.9/ 141.9**
Gillingham	133.9	**139.9/130.9**	141.9	**149.9/ 137.9**
Gravesend	131.0	**132.9/128.9**	138.4	**140.9/ 135.9**
Maidstone	132.2	**142.9/127.9**	140.2	**148.9/ 137.9**
Ramsgate	133.7	**133.9/132.9**	141.3	**141.9/140.9**
Sevenoaks	132.4	**133.9/130.9**	140.0	**140.9/ 139.9**
Sittingbourne	132.9	**134.9/129.9**	140.7	**142.9/ 135.9**
Tonbridge	132.7	**133.9/131.9**	140.2	**140.9/ 139.9**
Tunbridge Wells	132.7	**133.9/131.9**	141.7	**142.9/ 140.9**

According to figures from PetrolPrices.com, based on prices on January 6, 2013. Figures are pence per litre.



- The most expensive unleaded petrol in Gravesend is cheaper or the same as the average price of unleaded in Broadstairs, Ramsgate, Folkestone, Dover, Sittingbourne and Gillingham.
- One petrol station in Maidstone charges 148.9p per litre for diesel, 11p more expensive than another garage in the same town and almost 10p more expensive than the average cost of diesel in Gravesend.
- Just 21 miles away from Dover, across the Channel in Calais, motorists can fill up for as little as 105p per litre for diesel, about £57 for a full tank – more than £20 cheaper than the average cost in Kent.

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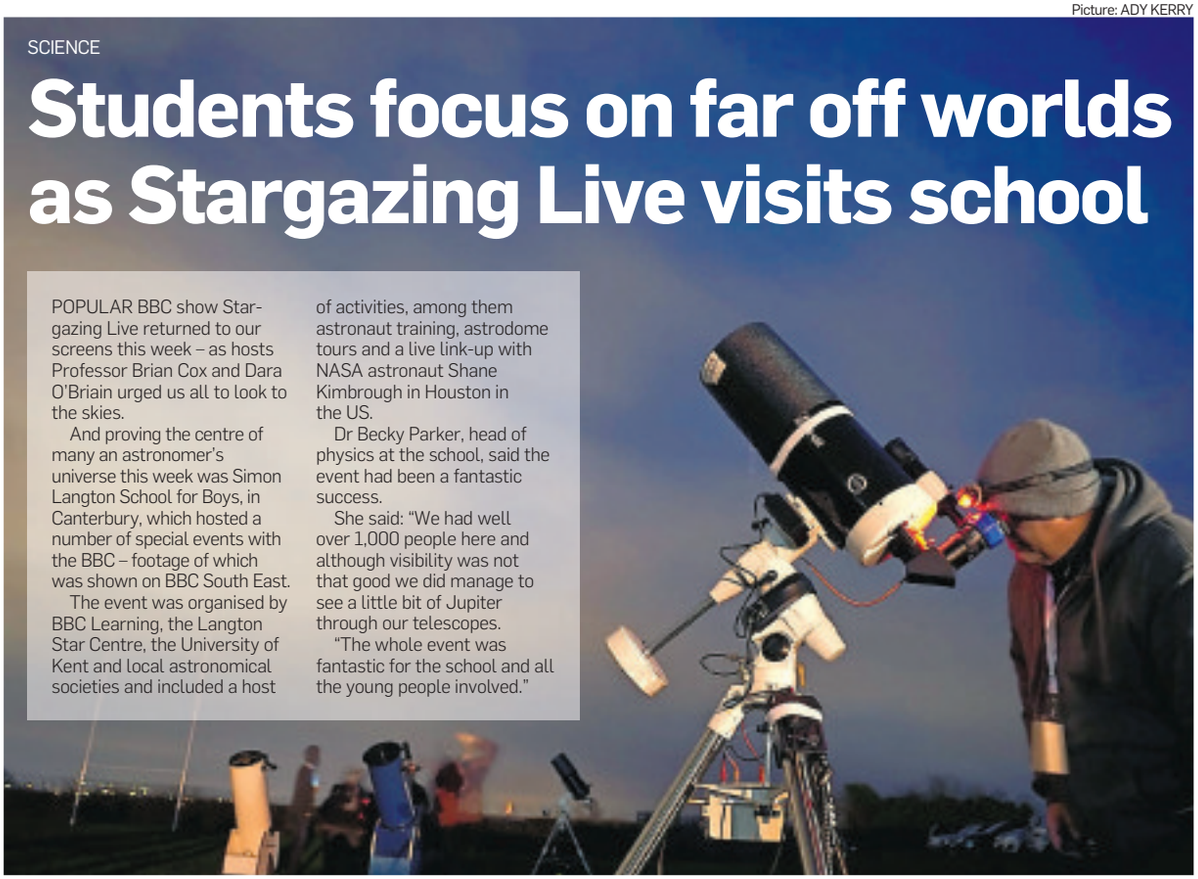
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Picture: ADY KERRY

SCIENCE

Students focus on far off worlds as Stargazing Live visits school



POPULAR BBC show Stargazing Live returned to our screens this week – as hosts Professor Brian Cox and Dara O'Briain urged us all to look to the skies.

And proving the centre of many an astronomer's universe this week was Simon Langton School for Boys, in Canterbury, which hosted a number of special events with the BBC – footage of which was shown on BBC South East.

The event was organised by BBC Learning, the Langton Star Centre, the University of Kent and local astronomical societies and included a host of activities, among them astronaut training, astrodome tours and a live link-up with NASA astronaut Shane Kimbrough in Houston in the US.

Dr Becky Parker, head of physics at the school, said the event had been a fantastic success.

She said: "We had well over 1,000 people here and although visibility was not that good we did manage to see a little bit of Jupiter through our telescopes.

"The whole event was fantastic for the school and all the young people involved."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Victim, 102, on her feet

A 102-year-old woman who had her walking frame stolen from outside her front door has had it replaced after a police appeal.

Freda McGregor, from Wrotham, was left stranded in her home after the frame was swiped last week. It was found dumped in bushes on Monday. But Medway firm First Choice Mobility responded to the appeal and purchased her a new one.

Drink-drive Tory banned

A CONSERVATIVE councillor has been banned from getting behind the wheel for 20 months after admitting drink-driving.

Neil Baker, 30, of Whistable, had been cabinet member for tourism on Canterbury City Council and chairman of the Canterbury Conservatives, when he crashed his car in Blean last month. He was subsequently suspended from his post by Tory leader John Gilbey.

When breath-tested, he was more than double the legal limit. Magistrates also fined him £200 and ordered him to pay £85 costs.

Is snow on its way?

WEATHER experts are warning snow could be set to sweep into Kent this weekend.

The Met Office says temperatures are set to fall, but that it is hard to predict exactly which areas of the UK will see snow.

Paul Gundersen, Met Office chief forecaster, said: "No one should be surprised to see sleet or snow over the weekend and next week."

LAW

As Tappin starts jail term, his family calls for change in extradition laws

FAMILY and friends of retired businessman Christopher Tappin, who was sentenced to 33 months in prison after admitting selling weapon parts to Iran, are vowing to stop "unwarranted" extradition being imposed on others.

The pledge came as the former Kent Golf Union president was sentenced in a Texas court after reaching a deal with US prosecutors in November, which saw him change his plea to guilty.

The 66-year-old, from Orpington, had previously faced 35 years in prison.

He will now serve 33 months and a US judge recommended he do so in a UK prison.

Mr Tappin's wife Elaine said she could now "finally see the light at the end of this long dark tunnel".

But she said she remained "frustrated" that his extradition was granted in the first place.

Despite a long fight against it, Mr Tappin was extradited in February 2011, and incarcerated in a US jail with authorities claiming he was a "flight risk".

"Having seen first-hand how the Extradition Act works in practice, I'm dismayed by the damage inflicted on defendants and those close to them," said Mrs Tappin.

"The cost is too often either unnecessary, disproportionate, or both. We cannot change what has happened to Chris, nor to those who have gone before him, but we can take steps to stop unwarranted extradition being imposed on others. I shall continue to do what I can to encourage Parliament to change the law in favour of domestic prosecution over extradition, whenever reasonable."



GUILTY: Christopher Tappin was given 33 months in prison by a US judge

Mr Tappin's friend, and leader of political party Ukip, Nigel Farage, from Westerham, has also called for the US-UK extradition treaty to be amended.

Speaking to KoS after Mr Tappin's plea change, he said: "The home secretary has said she will introduce a forum bar."

This means that British courts will be able to bar prosecution overseas, if they believe it is in the interests of justice to do so.

"It's too late for Chris, but I will keep pushing for this to be introduced," said Mr Farage.

He also condemned the "abhorrent" US plea bargaining tool. The controversial system sees defendants faced with two choices; either they plead guilty – even if innocent – and receive a lighter sentence, or they plead not guilty and face a life sentence or huge legal bills fighting the case.

"Chris is a proud person and he feels angry that he was forced into this predicament," Mr Farage added.





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ELDERLY CARE

It's time to make a stand against the Government's 'lack of commitment'

CAP OUR CARE COSTS

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

OUTSPOKEN County Hall leader Paul Carter has demanded the Government cut foreign aid and EU budgets, and divert funds to elderly people to stop them having to sell their homes to pay for care.

The senior Tory criticised the "lack of commitment" shown by the Coalition, which has dithered over introducing recommendations outlined by the Dilnot commission to reform adult social care funding.

Under the current system, elderly people, including those suffering debilitating diseases such as Alzheimer's, are forced to sell their homes and use savings to pay for care costs.

As a result, many who have worked every day of their lives and never relied on state benefits are left with nothing.

Cllr Carter said the current funding system was "not up to the job" and demanded Prime Minister David Cameron and his deputy Nick Clegg resolve the crisis.

He has launched a Government e-petition with the leaders of Hampshire and Buckinghamshire county councils calling on Whitehall to introduce recommendations outlined by the Dilnot commission.

The two key proposals are:

- A funding cap at £35,000, after which the Government would pay for care. This means an individual would pay for their own care – possibly funded by an insurance policy taken out when they are still working – and once they have contributed £35,000 would be eligible for full state support.
- An increase in the means-tested support threshold from £23,250 to £100,000. Currently, anyone with assets over £23,250 has to bear the costs of their own care.



SPEAKING OUT: Cllr Paul Carter has called for action regarding elderly care fees

Last year, more than 24,500 people nationwide had to sell their homes to pay care bills.

Mr Cameron and Mr Clegg pledged support to the Dilnot report in the mid-term review on Monday but have come under fire for the lack of detail in how they propose to take the reforms forward.

Recommendations were outlined by the Dilnot commission 18 months ago, but there has been little movement since.

Speaking to KoS, Cllr Carter said: "Even after their joint announcement on Monday, there seems to be no commitment.

"This has to be a priority – these reforms must be introduced by 2015.

"I'm standing up for people who have worked hard their whole lives, who have never had to fall back on state benefits, but who, when reaching old age or suffering illness, have to sell their homes and spend their hard-earned money on care."

Social care experts warn that the problem goes even deeper, with 'cash-poor' elderly people stripped of pension benefits and other credits when they sell their homes due to their bank balance suddenly increasing.

But with this money spent on their care, experts say some are left with barely anything in their pocket each week.

Cllr Carter said the Government needed to prioritise implementing the Dilnot reforms, which would cost £1.7bn.

"The figure is affordable if the Government puts a cap on contributions to the EU community budget and foreign aid," he said. "Savings made from not increasing these contributions will more than pay for making sure we have fair, sensible funding for elderly care.

"I think the delay is because they're trying to reduce budget expenditure, but these recommendations should be a priority. The Government should be looking after its own.

"We're urging KoS readers to sign the petition and get this debated in Parliament. We need to make sure the Government knows how urgent the need for this solution has become."

Go to http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/43330 to sign.

CASE STUDY

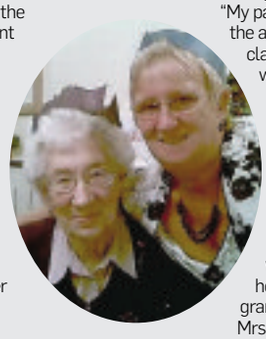
PAULINE Turner's mother, Annie, suffered from Alzheimer's. She went into a care home after the illness reached the point where she needed round-the-clock support.

The placement cost almost £20,000 a year and as a self-funder she had to put her house on the market to pay costs.

With debt mounting, the family accepted a much lower price for the house.

Annie's pension and attendance allowance were also used towards care home fees, which had amounted to more than £100,000 by the time she passed away.

Her daughter, Pauline, 68, who lives in Cliftonville, said that when the house was sold, her mother's pension credits and fuel allowance were cut as it looked as though she had more money.



"My parents worked from the age of 14 and never claimed benefits. My dad worked in the day and my mum worked in a cinema at night," she said. "My mother would have been so upset if she knew all her money was being used to pay for care and she wouldn't be able to help her children or grandchildren."

Mrs Turner said 'cash-poor' elderly people who had to sell their homes to pay for care were left with virtually nothing.

"I support the Dilnot recommendations, although I think even with the £35,000 cap people will still have to sell their homes. I think the cap should be lower."

SIGN THE PETITION AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HUNDREDS, if not thousands, of people living in Kent have been or are faced with the dilemma of how to pay for elderly care.

We believe there needs to be a fair partnership between state help and individuals paying for their own care.

While recommendations have been put forward by the Dilnot commission to make this happen, the Government is dithering over the reforms.

We have teamed up with Kent County Council to launch a campaign to push these recommendations through by 2015. We are appealing to you to help pressure the Government by signing the Make Dilnot Happen by 2015 e-petition to see this debated in Parliament. Go to http://bit.ly/X64YIQ to sign.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PinK unveils new chief

PRODUCED in Kent (PinK) has appointed Edwyn Martin as its new manager, tasked with growing the organisation that champions local food and drink.

The former café owner and cook, who lives in Faversham, replaces Julie Monkman, who stepped down after four years at the helm at the end of last year.

PinK, based in Hadlow, near Tonbridge, saw Mr Martin take over the reins on Monday.

Adoption numbers rise

THE number of children being placed with adoptive families has risen by almost 60 per cent, with Kent County Council crediting the increase on improvements to its adoption system.

From April 1 to December 31, 2012, 108 children were placed with new families, compared with 68 for the previous 12 months. Some 77 children were also legally adopted in the county, compared with 70 for 2011.

Naomi's nomination

HOLLYWOOD star Naomi Watts has been nominated for an Academy Award.

Born in Shoreham, near Sevenoaks, the 44-year-old is in the running for Best Actress for her role in The Impossible.

The film focuses on a family caught up in the Asian tsunami disaster of 2004.

The film has upset some survivors, however. See inside for more more details.

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13th December 2012

Mr Kelly, Mitcham
Very pleased with the installation.

Mr Willson, Rochester
Very pleased with the end result. The fitters were excellent. They were very professional and worked hard in the two days they were on site to complete the job. Thank you.

Mrs Warham, Broadstairs
The men came, worked hard on the FSG it was freezing cold. I was pleased with the workmanship especially in such unpleasant weather.

Mrs Ralph, Sittingbourne
Very polite and hardworking.

Ms Wyles, Deal
The young man that came to install my Britelite Window and doors was prompt, very polite and didn't stop once for a drink although they were offered. I was very impressed with his working standards.

Mrs Webb, Teston
Next year we intend replacing the back window. Therefore we will be in touch with you than.

Jo Lane, Biggin Hill
Our fitters were friendly and efficient and tidy. Our sales rep again was friendly informative and didn't start at silly prices. Nice man. Very pleased with windows.

11th December 2012

Mr Adams, Crowborough
First class job, very satisfied

Mrs Cooper, Edenbridge
Very friendly and efficient.

Mr Pegg, Cliftonville
Extremely efficient, courteous and helpful fitting team. My unfortunate disability was well acknowledged.

10th December 2012

Mr Trigg, Chatham
Very good work, nice bunch of lads, any issues were dealt with and put right, kept dirt and noise to a minimum. Very fast work.

Mr Guerra, Putney
This is the second time the fitter has installed windows for me. On both occasions his work has been top quality and he is very professional in his attitude and work.

Mrs Scoon, Middlesex
I was pleased with the service from start to finish. The initial person who gave the quote and the teams who worked on the porch and conservatories. All professional and knowledgeable and the manner in which they conducted themselves will ensure we use Britelite again in the future.

Mr Manwaring, Hildenborough
Excellent workers good attention to detail, no hesitation in recommending Britelite. Conservatory is everything we hoped for.

Mr Skinner, Tonbridge
The sales rep turned up when he said he would. He was friendly and pleasant to deal with. The office staff were friendly and efficient every time we contacted them. The installers arrived in time, they were friendly, did a great job and left the property tidy. I can't recommend Britelite highly enough.

Mr & Mrs Schmidt, Forest Row
On time, fast, efficient.

Ms Stockwell, Cobham
Very nice, company – helpful without trying to do a hard sell. I felt people were honest and straight forward.

3rd December 2012

Mrs Bertelsen, Dover
Excellent workers, got on with the jobs directly they arrived. Very pleasant to talk to. Left rooms very tidy and clean when they left. Recommended.

Mr Akhurst, Rainham
A very good job done, fitter left it clean and tidy, very pleased with the new door could not ask for better service.

Mr & Mrs Little, Rochester
Fitter were very approachable for questions and gave 100% to their work which showed in the end result.

29th November 2012

Mr & Mrs Godden, Deal
After having all our windows replaced by Britelite and being so pleased with both product and workmanship, we decided to have a new front door, which has also reached our full expectations of the quality and installations from Britelite. No mess, no fuss, from installers who were very friendly and polite, clean and tidy. Thank you again.

28th November 2012

Miss Todd, Hounslow
Tidied up beautifully.

Mr San, Hayes
The fitting team very good at their job. Would recommend to others for future work.



Mrs Vocking, Chertsey
The workmen were very polite and tidy. Everything was covered up when they were working and they left the place tidy and did the job well on first glance.

7th December 2012

Mr & Mrs Ahmed, Tunbridge Wells
Fitters are very good and overall everything is excellent. Keep your standards and service same like this.

6th December 2012

Mrs Joel, Uckfield
Beautiful windows, fantastic quality, Thank you.

Mr Boardman, Ashford
I must comment on the standard of the installation team as excellent, very clean and tidy and we are most pleased with the end result.

30th November 2012

Ms Arnold, Sidcup
We're really pleased with our new porch doors and windows. Service from the whole team was excellent. The fitters were very tidy and cleaned up after themselves. The whole experience was very good. Would definitely use you again when we want our windows done.

Mr McGibbon, Rainham
Excellent experience all round . Good advice, friendly and helpful staff.

Mr & Mrs Betts, Watford
First class job done by very friendly professional fitter. Excellent at cleaning up afterwards, beautiful windows and doors. We wouldn't hesitate to use Britelite again and recommend you to friends and family. Thank you.

Mr & Mrs Aldridge, Maidstone
The wife and I are more than pleased with the work done on the door and windows. The two workers were very good, they left the place tidy. I would recommend your firm to anyone.

Mr & Mrs Mower, Maidstone
A 1st class job from a 1st class company! A super job, lovely workman who were professional and took pride in their work. Excellent windows and doors which have transformed our home. The office staff have also been efficient with good communication. Many Thanks.

Mrs Newbury, Hatfield
We were very impressed with the service we were provided with from the sales representative coming to quote for windows through to installation I must say the fitters were very tidy, professional and helpful

27th November 2012

Miss Stapleton, Erith
It's the second time we have used Britelite and once again very pleased with results. Your team friendly quick and efficient and work done to a high standard. All areas cleaned well when finished.

Mrs Contreas, Ramsgate
Fitter very efficient, cleaned and tidied afterwards. Friendly manner.

Mr & Mrs Styles, Epsom
The fitters were charming helpful, polite and tidy a pleasure to have in ones house.

26th November 2012

Mr & Mrs Mattock, Sittingbourne
Both my Dad and Mother in law had your doors and windows fitted and were very pleased with them. Apart from supplying quality products at a very reasonable price, we were particularly pleased by the sales reps no pressure quote. There was no sign today to get this price technique, which I think most people really dislike. I am happy to recommend your product.

Mr & Mrs Mattock, Sittingbourne I am very satisfied with the base team. They were friendly and worked with enthusiasm throughout the base work. Top team very friendly work tirelessly throughout the days that they worked completing the conservatory.

P.Hookham, Bromley
Very highly recommended workmen excellent and very neat and tidy.

Mr O'Brien, Rochester
The whole process was quick and easy from start to finish, the installation team did a very good job putting in the windows the workmanship was A++ would recommend to anybody.

These are just a few of the testimonials we have received in the last month!

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ENTERTAINMENT

The humble beginnings of returning superstar Bowie

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

DAVID Bowie blew out the candles on his 66th birthday cake this week – and then surprised fans by releasing his first new music for a decade.

The digital release of Where Are You Now? on Tuesday was an aperitif to a new album, The Next Day, in March – his first since 2003's Reality.

But it also marked the end of several years of rather reclusive behaviour from one of the most flambouyant and influential performers of the last 40 years.

He currently lives a quiet life in New York, shunning the limelight, with his wife Iman. All of which is a long way from his more humble beginnings in Kent where he started life as David Jones and played early shows across the county.

His mother, Margaret 'Peggy' Burns, was born in Southborough, Tunbridge Wells. in 1913, and met David's father, Haywood 'John' Jones, in the cafe of the Ritz cinema in the spa town, where she worked as an usherette. They married and lived in Brixton where, in 1947, David was born. They moved to Bromley in 1953.

The family would live there until 1965, with the young David attending Burnt Ash Junior school, before he failed his 11-plus and went to Bromley Technical College.



BIRTHDAY: Kent's David Bowie is now 66

It was here that his musical career and love of performance began, with junior school providing a chance for him to join the choir and music and dance classes.

As a teenager, he became entranced by American stars like Elvis Presley, Fats Domino and Little Richard after listening to singles of his father's.

At the age of 15 he formed his first band. The Konrads performed locally, before he announced he was leaving school to become a pop star. He then had a short-lived career with the King Bees, before he joined Maidstone group the Manish Boys, where he admitted he dreamed of emulating Dartford rocker Mick Jagger.

He lived in the county town for a short while, but in an interview with a fansite he remembered receiving a beating as he walked down the street. He said: "It was just this big Herbert. He knocked me down on the pavement and when I fell down, he proceeded to kick me for no reason that I can fathom to this day. I haven't got many good memories of Maidstone."

With an increasing desire to make it big, he then joined The Lower Third, a Margate band which had a regular slot in a Cliftonville hotel, before he moved on to front The Buzz and then Riot Squad, ditching his surname in the mid-60s to replace it with Bowie; after the American frontiersman. He had feared Davie Jones was too similar to Davy Jones of the Monkees.

By 1969, he released Space Oddity to coincide with the Moon landings, and went from performing in Beckenham folk club to enjoying his first major commercial hit.

The rest, as they say, is history. He performed in Kent only once more; in Chatham for Ziggy Stardust's farewell tour of 1973.

LEGEND'S KENT PERFORMANCES

1962
- **The Konrads**
 Bromley Technical High School; Chislehurst Caves

1963
- Shows in Biggin Hill, Orpington, West Wickham
- **The Hooker Brothers**
 Bromel Club, Bromley

1964
- **Mannish Boys**
 Star Club, Maidstone; Good Companions Club, Rochester; Wye College, nr Ashford; Astor Theatre, Deal; Pembroke Club, Chatham; Sellindge
- **Davie Jones and the Mannish Boys**
 Astor Theatre, Deal; Invicta Ballroom, Chatham; Medway County Youth Club; Justin Hall, West Wickham; Royal Star Hotel, Maidstone; Corn Exchange, Maidstone

1965
- Royal Star Hotel, Maidstone; Bromel Club, Bromley
- **The Lower Third**
 Working Men's Club, Minster; Sheerness & District MCC Cons Club; Grand Hotel, New Romney; Cliftonville Hall, Margate (band perform a Thursday night residency)

1966
- **David Bowie & The Buzz**
 Pleasurama, Coronation Ballroom, Ramsgate

1969
- **David Bowie**
 Library Gardens, Bromley; Downham Folk Club, Bromley; General Gordon, Gravesend; Aurora Hotel, Gillingham

1973
- **The Aladdin Sane tour**
 (performing as Ziggy Stardust)
 Central Hall, Chatham

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CRIME

Can memorial service to murdered teenage girl help solve the agonising 20-year-old mystery?

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A CANDLELIT memorial walk to remember murdered schoolgirl Claire Tiltman has been organised for the 20th anniversary of her death.

Friends of the youngster will retrace her final footsteps on Friday, January 18, and then attend a service at the local church.

They hope it will spark some new information and finally find her killer – as well as keep her memory alive.

Claire, who wanted to be a firefighter, was stabbed more than 40 times in an alleyway near her home in Greenhithe.

She had managed to stagger towards the end of the alley, off the busy A226 London Road, but tragically died. She was just 16.

Police say the case remains open, but there are dwindling leads to follow two decades later.

Reverend Kenneth Clark at St Mary's in Stone will conduct the service.

He also carried out the funeral services of Claire's parents – both of whom died without seeing the murderer brought to justice.

Her father Cliff had fought tirelessly to keep the case alive, but died last year.

Rev Clark said: "At the time, we reflected there were more victims than just Claire; it was her parents, grandparents and her friends as well.

"They were left totally devastated.

"Her friends approached me to mark the 20 years that have passed.

"The walk re-enacts her last steps. There will be a pause at the place where she died and then we will cross the road into the church.

"Claire was a fun-loving, bubbly teenager with her life in front of her – all those dreams and that potential were lost.

"A long time has passed, but it seems inconceivable there isn't a key to unlock this mystery. It will only take one piece of information and we will see a solution."

The walk starts at 6pm at Horns Cross outside the Bull public house and ends at the memorial in Claire's name where a tribute will be left before a short service at 7pm.

Vicki Atkins was the friend Claire was on her way to see that fateful night.

They had been pals since playschool.

She said: "I can't believe, 20 years on, there is still no justice. I just hope it brings one more piece of information to solve the mystery."



TRAGEDY: Murdered Claire Tiltman

Another close friend Emma Edwards added: "Even though it's been 20 years, it doesn't take the pain away.

"I knew Claire from school. She was a bit of a rebel and got in to a bit of trouble. But she was, more than anything, such good fun.

"We are optimistic her killer will be found."

Reflecting on the day of the tragedy, Lisa Gribbin, Claire's best friend who now lives in Scotland, said: "I knew something was wrong when her mother arrived at the door.

"I had not seen any news, and this was now the following day. Just seeing her face I knew something was wrong."

DID CLAIRE KNOW THE KILLER WHO ENDED HER LIFE IN BRUTAL ALLEYWAY ATTACK?

CLAIRE had turned 16 just four days before she left her home in Woodward Terrace at around 6pm on January 18, 1993.

The Dartford Grammar School student was heading to meet chum Vicki Atkins. She would never arrive.

It should have been a relatively easy stroll from her home, down an alleyway to Vicki's home. But it was here she met her death. It was a savage, brutal assault and she stood no chance of survival.

The killer vanished and her body was found by a passer-by some 20 minutes later.

Stranger murders are relatively rare, which has prompted the question: did she know the person who ended her young life?

Today, it's understood some 12,000 people have come forward with possible clues, and 1,685 statements were written and rigorously checked. Cross-referencing every shred of evidence, and closely interviewing several suspects, some already in prison, all turned up nothing.



ATTACK: The scene of the crime

Rumours started. Was it the work of a notorious serial killer? Scorned boyfriend? Homeless nomad?

All were investigated, but the case rapidly became one of Kent's most notorious unsolved crimes.

Developments in DNA procedures have been used to analyse old evidence, but still nothing concrete has emerged.

Detective Chief Inspector Rob Vinson, from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, said: "This is one of the largest murder investigations ever for Kent Police. It has been repeatedly re-investigated.

"The hardest thing we have had to deal with is that there were no witnesses. All we have is Claire staggering to the end of the alleyway. I just keep coming back to thinking somebody locally knows who did it.

"The killer of Claire Tiltman should not be out there on the streets. They should be locked up for what they have done. That's why it becomes so personal to all who work on this case."

CLAIRE was the only child of Lin and Cliff. Her death left a gaping hole in their lives, and they never really recovered.

Lin died, aged 56, from cancer in 2008. Cliff, 62, followed last year.

They were always open to approach in the hope it may spark a new line of information that would lead detectives to their daughter's killer.

At first, police visits were regular and optimistic, but as time passed, they became fewer less progress was made.

Cliff understood the detectives were just as frustrated but he never gave up hope until his death.

Talking to a lawyer is never going to be a barrel-load of laughs. But it doesn't have to be scary.

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TRAVEL

Billions to boost rail links to city, but warnings of a sting in the tail

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A MULTI-billion pound investment in Kent's railway network – the biggest since the Victorian era – is to be rolled out over the next six years.

But while it will greatly enhance the service rail operators can provide in and out of London, passengers are being warned they face the prospect of years of disruption to services as part of a 'trade-off' for the improvements.

At the heart of the announcement by Network Rail, which maintains the infrastructure of the nation's rail network, is a £6 billion investment in the Thameslink service, which will include a rebuild of London Bridge station – a major interchange for Kent commuters.

But, when the programme rolls out between 2014 and 2019, there will also be a train lengthening programme across the Kent surburban area by Network Rail, lengthening platforms and upgrading systems to power longer trains.

Rochester station will be moved closer to the town centre as part of wider regeneration plans. The £26m new building will be sited on land which forms the Corporation Street car park.

The move has been welcomed by local MP Mark Reckless, and will go before Medway Council next week to secure planning permission.

There will also be targeted work to improve reliability on sections of the line between Hastings and Tunbridge Wells; Ashford and Tonbridge; Dartford and London via Sidcup; Ashford and Hastings; and Ashford and Ramsgate.

The move comes in a bid to cater for an expected 30 per cent rise in the number of passengers using Kent's rail services by 2022. Operator Southeastern says numbers have increased by 7.2 per cent in the last three years alone.

A spokesman for Southeastern said it welcomed Network Rail's decision.

He said: "We're working in an alliance to improve rail services in Kent and south east London and this strategic plan builds on the large amount of work that has been completed and is currently under way. This investment will enable us to further improve reliability and meet the growing demand for our rail services."

However, Dave Ward, Network Rail's route managing director for the south east, has warned that despite the investment – which will deliver significant benefits by the end of 2019 – there will have to be trade-offs to achieve them.

He said: "The number of passengers using the railway continues to grow year-on-year. As the railway gets busier, the number of challenges increase and it becomes more complex than ever to run a reliable and cost-effective railway.

"As a result, we have entered an era of trade-offs. Increasingly we have to balance the need to build more infrastructure, run trains on time and reduce costs, and in many areas difficult choices will need to be made.

"Billions of pounds are being invested in the Thameslink programme, which includes the redevelopment of London Bridge station. This will transform the railway for passengers across Kent but while work is taking place there will be many tests for passengers as well as Network Rail and the train operators. This is an example of the trade-offs that have to be made.

"As the network becomes increasingly full, particularly in peak periods, the rail industry must be able to make balanced and evidence-based choices between providing increased capacity, improving punctuality and driving down costs.

"The end result will be a better railway for everyone which will encourage continued economic growth across Kent, Sussex and Surrey."



IN NUMBERS

654,300 total number of extra peak morning seats into London across south east by 2019

50m number of passengers a year using London Bridge

30% Southeastern's prediction of passenger growth by 2022

£26m cost of relocating Rochester train station

FUTURE: An artist's impression of how London Bridge station will be rebuilt to benefit commuters

BIGGER PLATFORMS

Stations which will benefit include: New Cross, Blackheath, Eltham, Welling, Bexleyheath, Barnehurst, Dartford, Hither Green, Mottingham, Grove Park, New Eltham, Chelsfield, Knockholt, Dunton Green, Maze Hill, Westcombe Park, Charlton, Plumstead, Erith, Slade Green and Gravesend.

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COMMENT

Crucial police budget right for the force and taxpayers' needs

In the first of a regular monthly column for this newspaper, Kent's first Police and Crime Commissioner, **Ann Barnes**, updates the county on the challenges facing the police and the difficult task of establishing budgets for the year ahead...

AFTER such a big build-up to the Christmas festivities my holiday has flown by. At least I managed to finally get hold of the nut roast I was after for my Christmas dinner, and delicious it was.

I'm now back in the office and have hit the ground running.

It's all go as one of my first big policing decisions for 2013 is to set the police budget for the year. This is going to really tough and I'm weighing up all the options.

I have to think about the impact of burdening taxpayers with an increased council tax bill, whether to freeze it, and meet public expectations of a more visible policing service. So a lot to think about and I can't get it wrong.

I'm now two-and-a-half months into the job and I've been out and about touring most of east Kent including Margate, Broadstairs, Ashford, Dover, Deal, Canterbury and a number of small villages. In the next few weeks I will be heading to Edenbridge, Medway and Faversham.

Everywhere I go I hear the same message. People want more of a visible police presence on their streets, villages and towns, and they really value their local police community support officers. It's that face-to-face contact you just can't beat. I think the same as the people of Kent do; they really do a great job and free up regular police officers to get on with the protecting bit.

Visibility will set my agenda for the start of this year, myself included.

I made a commitment to be out and about in local communities and that is a promise I will never break. So visibility will form part of my plan in the next three-and-a-half years.

I am proud and privileged to have been elected to serve you all – even those who didn't vote for me – and I will faithfully represent your views and always put the needs of Kent residents and businesses first.

I'm really looking forward to launching my plan and budget decisions in the next few weeks. All will be revealed in my next column.

I've now got a website up and running – www.kent-pcc.gov.uk – so if you want to get in touch there are several ways you can do this, either by signing up to the site or through twitter @AnnBarnesKPCC. Alternatively, if you're not online you can call the office on 01622 677055.

Until next time,

Best wishes,

Ann

your Kent Police and Crime Commissioner



■ Have you got an opinion on this matter? Get involved in the debate and share your comments on our letters' page. Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or write to The Editor, KOS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6SS.

HEALTH

SECAmb election call

SOUTH East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECAmb) is holding elections for public governors to represent Kent.

The vacancies are due to the term of office of several current governors coming to an end.

Nominations must be in by January 17. The council is made up of members of the public, SECAmb staff and other stakeholders.

CRIME

Warning over security following a sharp rise in mobile phone thefts

MOBILE phone thefts are on the rise, with police issuing a warning for everyone to take extra precautions to ensure they do not become the next victims.

And of particular concern are children aged under 16 who are increasingly seeing their high value items pinched.

The total number of incidents of phone theft leapt from 2,442 in 2009 to 3,214 in 2011.

Chief Inspector Lee Russell, who speaks for Kent Police's Stay Safe This Winter campaign, said: "Ninety-two per cent of adults have a mobile phone and 61 per cent of seven to 16-year-olds own a phone.

"In the main, a child is not going to be robbed of a phone but if they are seen carrying it on the street and then put it down in a coat pocket to go and play a game of football someone might steal it then.

"There are things you can do. Put a PIN lock on your phone, property mark it and record the IMEI number of your phone – that way we can trace it back to you if we find it."

In the Tonbridge and Malling district, there were four cases this week where phones were stolen from locked cars.

Inspector Nick Sparkes said: "It is imperative that everyone takes every step they can to keep their valuables safe."

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FILM

Tsunami movie trailer left me in tears, says shocked mother of disaster victim



By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A MOTHER who lost her son in the Asian tsunami that devastated the region and claimed 230,000 lives, says TV trailers for a major new film on the tragedy are "insensitive".

Linda Lilley, from Hythe, lost her son Jez Stephens as he holidayed in Thailand when the wave struck land in 2004.

And she says her Christmas was ruined when, without warning, a trailer for the movie The Impossible was shown on the television.

It depicts special effects showing the enormous wave engulfing a holiday resort.

The film, which stars Ewan McGregor and Naomi Watts, who was brought up in Shoreham, near Sevenoaks, charts one family's desperate efforts to stay alive and be reunited following the disaster.

She said: "When I saw the trailer I was shocked and just dissolved into tears.

"We thought we'd got so far through Christmas without too much anxiety and that was suddenly thrown in to our faces. That was it – Christmas had gone."

Her 29-year-old son's body was found a week after the wave struck the guest house where he was staying. He was buried at St Stephens's in Lympne, where he grew up.

Mrs Lilley added: "I was totally unprepared to see that wave again."

Steve Gill is the co-chairman of Tsunami Support UK. He told us: "Of course I would like to see a warning before showing these trailers as many hundreds of people will be badly affected by these images.

"The film sets out to shock with a scene that large numbers of British citizens experienced first hand and more than 150 of them did not survive. Thousands of those bereaved deserve the consideration of those profiting from the tragic events of that Boxing Day."

The group did mail out advice to members that the film was hitting theatres and would be advertised on television.

Frank Furedi, professor of sociology at the University of Kent, said it was a difficult issue for all involved and that issuing warnings was nigh-on impossible. He explained: "That would mean even things like traffic accidents could not be shown in films because victims of similar accidents would be affected.

"It is impossible to protect a television audience from everything. It is impossible to insulate individuals from some distressing experiences."

But Mrs Lilley added: "People are different, and perhaps some can cope with it. I couldn't and I know other members of our family can't either."

Filmmaker Universal did not have any comment.

THE FILM



THE Impossible has been critically well received, although many point to the short amount of time between the horrendous tragedy it depicits, and its arrival on the big screen as entertainment.

Directed by Juan Antonio Bayona, it is based on the true story of a Spanish family caught up in the disaster. In the movie the family are British – more as a nod towards the two core actors, Naomi Watts and Ewan McGregor.

It opened at theatres on January 1.

THE DISASTER

THE 2004 disaster was sparked by a massive earthquake under the seas off the west coast of Sumatra in Indonesia.

It triggered a series of tsunamis – huge tidal surges – along the coasts of land bordering the Indian Ocean on December 26. Some waves reached as high as 30 metres. The water swept inland, literally washing away whole communities. The final death toll was more than 230,000 people from 14 countries.

The clean-up was enormous, with more than £8.6bn in humanitarian aid donated.





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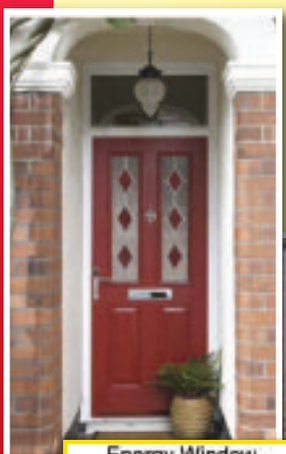
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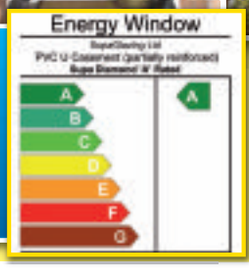
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HISTORY

Roman theatre discovery is a first for Britain

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE remains of a massive 2,000-year-old Roman theatre, which could have seated 12,000 spectators, have been discovered in fields just outside Faversham.

The excavated site, just off Graveney Road, and close to the busy Brenley Corner junction of the M2 and A2, revealed an open-air cockpit theatre built into the hillside.

It is believed to be the first of its kind to be uncovered in Britain and provides a fascinating glimpse into life during the time of the Roman occupation.

Experts believe the crowd would most likely have been spread across 50 rows positioned on the side of the hill. The diameter of the whole venue is thought to be some 65 metres.

This type of Roman theatre – of which there are around 100 examples in France and Belgium – would have been used for religious plays during festivals, explained Paul Wilkinson, director of the Kent Archaeological Field School.

Pictures: KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



He said: "There had been much evidence of Roman remains in the area in the form of debris which had been churned up by tractors.



EXCITING FIND: Uncovering the remains of the remarkable Roman theatre near Faversham

"So we undertook a thorough survey in the area, which is close to freshwater springs.

"The debris was all around one particular location, which had evidence of buildings, so it was then that we got out our trowels and took a closer look.

"We knew we had found a theatre when we uncovered evidence of an area for an orchestra, as well as a stage.

"There were even holes in the stage that would have allowed the orchestra pit to be flooded for aquatic displays. Water was sacred to the Romans."

Two other buildings found at the site, which have been identified as bath-houses, would have been used for fairs held in conjunction with performances. Both had the remains of under-floor heating systems.

Mr Wilkinson said: "This is important for Roman archaeology because this is the first theatre of its type found in Britain. Therefore, it shows that architectural practices in continental Europe at the time did seep over into Britain, at least into the east of the country.

"It's such an important and interesting site – and we haven't even begun to touch on the amount of archaeology there – that I shall be asking English Heritage for it to be scheduled as an important site."

A spokeswoman for English Heritage added: "If the full analysis of the results does confirm that the site on the outskirts of Faversham is a Roman rural theatre, it would be a most remarkable find."

INVASION



JULIUS Caesar first landed in Kent in 55BC – arriving on a beach between Walmer and Deal. Today a commemorative stone remembers his historic visit.

However, despite setting up a base in the county, civil war in Rome distracted Caesar and he and his troops returned to Italy, although not before establishing several key trade routes.

Plans were delayed to re-invade Britain until around AD43, when the Romans once again swept into the county along its east coast.

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HOUSING

Funding helps beat national trend as rough sleeper numbers decline

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

WHILE the economic situation continues to bite hard, a recent survey has confirmed a drop in the number of people sleeping rough across the county.

Homelessness charity Porchlight says the figures – which estimate a dip in the average number of people living on the streets each night from 123 in 2011 to 108 last year – are a direct result of funding it received a little over a year ago.

The £250,000 from the Homeless Transition Fund – an independent funding organisation which aims to raise funds to provide services for homeless people and communities – allowed Porchlight to hire six additional staff from April last year to react swiftly to any reports of people sleeping rough.

As part of the national No Second Night Out scheme, the team rely on the public to notify them through a special hotline to rough sleepers, who they then locate and look to place in suitable accommodation.

Chris Coffey heads up the charity's 12-strong rough sleeper team. He said: "Whilst some local authority areas have seen a slight increase in the number of rough sleepers, overall the numbers are down in the face of increasing demand.

"That is a direct result of our new service and the information provided by the public. Without the service and the full support of local authorities, numbers would have most certainly increased to mirror the national trend."

Since launching the service in April, calls to the charity's helpline have almost doubled to more than 1,300 a month; they have undertaken 228 street outreach sessions and signed up 236 people who are new to the streets for support. Of those, 28 have been housed in the private rented sector, 40 have moved into supported accommodation and the remainder have taken various routes including moving in with friends or taking a local authority tenancy.

Despite significant success, Mr Coffey predicts a further increase in demand next year: "We are investing our own resources into the service but changes to the welfare system and the pressures people are facing both financially and emotionally will make demand difficult to meet in the same way next year without continued external funding and support from the public."

The Don't Just Walk Past – Tell Us campaign gives people the option of calling a 24-hour helpline number 0800 567 76 99 or completing a form on the charity's website. Go to www.porchlight.org.uk/tellus to find out more.

HOMELESS NEAR YOU



Average homeless people in each area, each night for 2012 (2011 in brackets)

Ashford	4	(6)
Canterbury	20	(22)
Dartford	16	(15)
Dover	5	(14)
Gravesham	10	(8)
Maidstone	19	(19)
Sevenoaks	2	(1)
Shepway	5	(12)
Swale	6	(2)
Tonbridge & Malling	3	(4)
Tunbridge Wells	10	(13)
Thanet	8	(7)
TOTAL	108	(123)

Medway figures for 2012 are 17. Figures for 2011 are not available.
Source: Porchlight.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police arrest boy, 10

A 10-year-old boy has been arrested by police in connection with a burglary in Maidstone.

Police also confirmed three 14-year-olds, two of whom are girls, have been arrested on suspicion of burgling the house in Worcester Road. It followed reports of anti-social behaviour. The teenagers were released on bail until March 18.

The younger boy who was quizzed in connection with the offence, is also on police bail.

New year, new pledge

A VOW to improve lifestyles in the new year has encourged more than 1,000 people to sign up to a health initiative in Medway.

A Better Medway's Healthy New Year campaign has seen a surge in those signing up since November. Pledges include exercising more, giving up smoking and cooking healthier meals. All who make a pledge is eligible for a free swim. Pledges can also be made online, see www.abettermedway.co.uk for details.

Trio escape prison

AN INVESTIGATION is under way into how three prisoners serving time at HMP Standford Hill on Sheppey were able to escape in the space of a week.

Paul Stone, 36, from Medway, went missing on Monday before being found on Wednesday. Anthony Horgan, 50, and Nicky Gale, 29, fled the open prison the previous Wednesday. A major security review has been called for as a result.

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TELEVISION

Did you appear in notorious banned film on aftermath of nuclear strike on Kent?

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE hunt is on for the amateur 'stars' of a documentary-style BBC drama on a nuclear attack which was deemed so horrifying it was banned for 20 years.

The War Game was made in 1965 and portrayed an apocolyptic scene in the county after Russian nuclear attacks see a bomb fall on Rochester.

But Peter Watkins' movie was deemed so graphic the BBC said it was "too horrifying for the medium of broadcasting" and shelved it.

In an era still uneasy after the world was taken to the brink of war during the Cuban missile crisis, the harsh – and realistic – portrayal of the impact of a nuclear attack was considered too much.

However, it was given a limited cinema release and won an Academy Award in 1966 for best documentary feature. But it was not shown on the BBC until 1985.

Now a determined BBC director is trying to track down as many of the 350 actors who appeared in the gritty movie as possible for an upcoming show. What's more, he hopes to track down Mr Watkins – who lives as a recluse in France.

He hopes to bring them together for the BBC South East's Inside Out show.

Some of the locations Mr Watkins used for his film include the Brook Theatre, Chatham, seen in the opening shot as base for operations; streets in Chatham, which are now the Pentagon shopping centre; and the Grand Shaft Barracks in Dover. Other towns to appear were Tonbridge and Gravesend.

The cast was almost entirely made up of amateurs, found via a series of public meetings held accross Kent.

Scenes include people dying from the fallout of nuclear blasts, suffering burns and police euthanizing the worst casualties with gunshots to the head. Food riots are met with armed resistance and civil war breaks out.

Dartford-born BBC director Sam Supple, 24, said after watching the film in Rochester it was surreal to step out in to the High Street.

He said: "I had just seen the area devastated by nuclear war on screen and it makes you think, what if?

"Some of the scenes depict riots and firing squad executions when martial law comes in and order needs to be regained. There are explosions miles away that still manage to burn the eyes of a little boy.

"As a modern audience we're used to seeing these things in worlds far from our own but when you see it on screen in a street in Kent and consider that if nuclear war broke out this is what could happen it stops you in your tracks."

The Inside Out episode is expected to be screened next month.

■ **Were you in the film? Or do you know someone who was? Contact Sam Supple at sam.supple@bbc.co.uk or call 01892 675649.**

THE WAR GAME

SHOT entirely in black and white, The War Game (pictured right) is just 50 minutes long and was written, directed and produced by Peter Watkins for the BBC's Wednesday Play series of dramas.

It sent shockwaves through the BBC and government and its withdrawal on August 6, 1965, coincided with the 20th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombings.

The story focuses on Rochester after it is hit by an off-target Russian missile aimed at Gatwick.

There was outrage at the time of its original release, with the Manchester Evening News saying it was the "most sickening in the world today and one the public should never see", and the Oxford Mail said "shocking ... leaves the impression of sadness and madness".





CLIPS: Scenes from shocking TV drama

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- Learn about the value the qualifications provide and how they lead to increased efficiency and productivity.
- Understand what the costs involved will be and how to access government funding.
- Find out how you may be eligible for a £1,500 grant that you could claim per apprentice you recruit.

All events commence at 2pm and conclude at 4.30pm.
Afternoon tea will be served with an opportunity to network and speak freely to fellow employers, colleagues and apprentices.

Come and join us!

- Wednesday 23rd January 2013 – The Pines Calyx, Dover
- Wednesday 30th January 2013 – Canterbury Cathedral Lodge, Canterbury
- Thursday 7th February 2013 – The Friars, Aylesford

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News

WATER

Meters to help prevent waste



NEARLY 2,000 water meters are to be installed across Snodland over the next eight weeks as South East Water continues to roll out the water-saving devices, pictured.

The south east has been classed as an area of serious water stress and research has shown that customers on a meter use 10 per cent less water than those who are not.

The water company insists having a water meter installed creates a fairer way of paying as people only pay for what they use.

CRUELTY

Girls hurled kitten around bedroom

TWO teenage girls have been banned from keeping pets for a year after admitting they took it in turns to throw a kitten around a room.

The youngsters – aged 15 and 16 and from Sheppey – admitted causing unnecessary suffering to a kitten at Maidstone Youth Court this week, in a case brought by the RSPCA.

They were sentenced to a nine month referral order, disqualified from keeping all animals for a year and ordered to pay £85 each in costs.

The girls filmed themselves on a mobile phone in August 2012 as they took it in turns to throw a female tortoiseshell kitten around in one of their bedrooms. The footage was subsequently posted on Facebook and a member of the public reported it to the police who interviewed the girls, the RSPCA was then asked to investigate.

The kitten is shown hitting the ceiling and appearing to be knocked unconscious. Even after this, the kitten is shown to be thrown violently a further two times.

A vet who examined the kitten said, given the length and severity of the attack, she would have suffered fear and distress and it was miraculous she had not suffered severe physical injuries.

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PEDAL POWER: Demelza children's hospice is looking for 100 cyclists to help them raise vital funds with a sponsored ride from Sittingbourne to Paris

CHARITY

Paris cycling challenge to raise cash for children

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

LOOKING for a real challenge and the opportunity to raise money for a good cause? Then children's hospice Demelza may have just the thing for you.

It is hosting a bike ride from its base in Sittingbourne all the way to Paris and is looking to recruit a 100-strong team capable of cycling a gruelling 60-70 miles over five days.

But you do have a little time to prepare. The event doesn't take place until April 30 to May 4 of 2014.

And it's all in a good cause, with Demelza hoping to raise a vital £100,000 to boost its coffers.

Explained a spokeswoman: "Registration is £100 per person with a minimum fundraising target of £1,750. But there's a lot of time to raise the money and our fundraising team will be on hand to give help and advice."

The money raised will cover accommodation, meals, mechanical support and spares, as well as the Channel crossing. All the riders have to do is provide the bike, travel insurance and a body ready to push itself hard.

Billed as the Demelza 101 – 100 riders, one cause – anyone who wants to learn more can attend one of two special information evenings.

They will be held at Demelza House in Bobbing, Sittingbourne, on January 31 from 7.30-9pm. And again at Demelza's south London base in Eltham on February 7, from 7.30-9pm.

To find out more, or to register you attendance at one of the events, contact emma.austen@demelza.org.uk or call 07920 151766.

■ **Demelza is holding a volunteer recruitment coffee morning between 10am and 2pm on January 31 at the Number 12 Tea Rooms at 12-13 Sun Street, Canterbury.**

THE HOSPICE

DEMELZA has built itself a reputation for providing a large range of hospice and care services to children, young people and their families.

Among the facilities available to life-limited or life-threatened children or young people, and their families, are such things as a multi-sensory room, jacuzzi and a host of practical care and advice.

It also offers a comprehensive service of support using a bereavement suite.

See www.demelza.org.uk for details.

ENVIRONMENT

Recycle your season's greetings

LOOKING for a way to recycle all your Christmas and greetings cards?

Gabrielle Argent from Tunbridge Wells has developed a product to reuse old Christmas and greetings cards and still donate to charity.

She says the idea for 'Festive Returns' and 'Greeting Returns' was a light-bulb moment, and stockists and charities are already showing an interest.

Each pack has 10 pre-printed or blank labels with envelopes for reusing and resending previously received greeting cards. The pack retails at £2.70, which includes a donation to charity, and different sizes will soon be available.

Mrs Argent explains: "No one likes to see beautiful cards go for pulp recycling, there is so much life left in them. I love the fact we can truly recycle the cards we have enjoyed and put a smile on someone's face with the sentiment which says – I care about you and I care about the environment."

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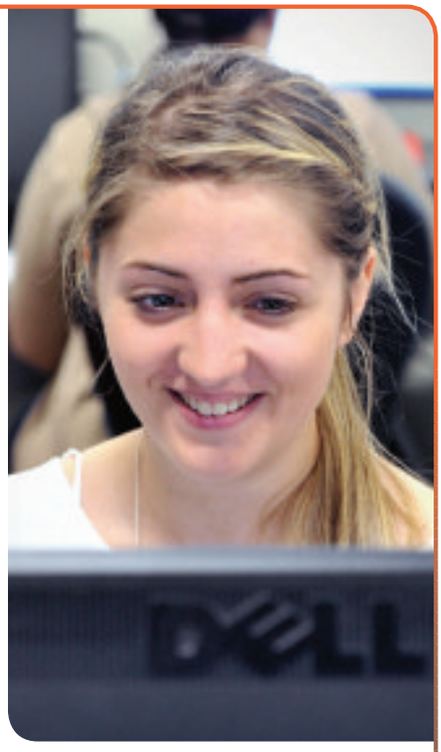
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EMPLOYMENT

Meet the man who spends his day cleaning up after the dead

By Chrissie Daniels
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

BLOOD, maggots, flies and bodily fluids – just some of the things a recently qualified crime scene cleaner is set to face as he embarks on his new career.

Justin Scudder, 33, from Sittingbourne, already has a successful cleaning business, but after being called to a blood spill last year, he started looking into the gruesome world of post-death clean-ups.

Now, after a three-day intensive course in Bristol with the National Academy of Crime Scene Cleaners, Mr Scudder has already had two nauseating call outs.

He said: "I have done two decomposition cleans in Maidstone. Some bodies have not been found for a number of weeks."

Both the bodies were of elderly people and their relatives had contacted Mr Scudder to help with the clean up.

One of the bodies had been in the property for seven weeks before it was discovered, so Mr Scudder and his partner had to remove the carpet and underlay to make sure everything was thoroughly cleaned.

All items have to then be put into an orange bag and incinerated. When the cleaners arrive, the bodies are long gone, but often the mess left behind can be extensive.



CLEAN UP: Justin Scudder gets to work on crime scenes once the police have finished

Mr Scudder, who runs JS Cleaning Services, said: "As you can imagine, there are a lot of maggots and flies about, which have to be killed with a smoke bomb which sets off a pesticide.

"I am not going to lie, it's not pleasant but they are still human beings. You have to detach yourself from it. The first night I did one I struggled to get to sleep. But it's a job and you have to get on with it.

"The way I see it, without being horrible, is if you are going to buy a chicken you do not want to think of it running around. We have to get into that mindset."

Mr Scudder said people who have experienced the death of someone close often don't know who to turn to, as the police may not always help with the clean-up.

He said: "Relatives are in a desperate situation when loved ones pass away."

The strong-stomached cleaner has had to have a hepatitis B jab and worries about catching infections from the mess.

Mr Scudder said: "You have special masks to wear. It's as if we are in an anthrax attack."

Another aspect of his business is removing needles left behind from drug taking.

But despite his ghoulish line of work, Mr Scudder hasn't been put off and hopes demand in Kent is strong enough to keep him busy.

Visit www.specialistcleaningkent.co.uk to find out more.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Battle of return home

AN ART exhibition telling the real life stories of Kent people as they have tried to make the traumatic transition from military to civilian life was launched this week.

Two Worlds: From Service to Civvy Street runs at the Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells until February 2. It highlights issues faced by ex-servicemen and women including homelessness, attempted suicide and unemployment. The exhibition is the first in a trilogy.

Beating in race attack

TWO Asian men were subjected to a vicious racist attack as they walked along the street in Tunbridge Wells in the early hours of New Year's Day, police have revealed.

The two victims, aged 25 and 21 say they were told to "go back to your country" by a man and a woman as they walked along Camden Road at around 4am. They were then viciously attacked and punched and kicked. Police are appealing for witnessses.

Street closure case

A 21-year-old from Northern Ireland will appear before magistrates in Sevenoaks later this month, facing charges relating to an incident which forced the closure of Tonbrige High Street in August.

Kevin Branagan from Aghagallon, was charged with aggravated vehicle taking and five other road traffic offences relating to the incident on August 8. He appears on January 30.

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EDUCATION

Education chiefs deem old college site unsuitable for new free school

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

PLANS for a free school in the heart of a rural village are being consulted on this month amid heated rows over where the facility should be located.

A bid for a free school in Wye, near Ashford, was drawn up by a local committee in 2011, aimed at giving families another non-selective secondary school option and reinvigorating the educational heritage of the village by locating it at the deserted Wye College.

But while the Department for Education gave its backing, its funding arm, the Education Funding Agency, which also manages school premises, deemed the Edwardian campus unsuitable.

Instead it outlined plans to use the Kempe Centre, the new library on the old campus, as well as erecting new buildings.

United Learning, the education provider tasked with running the school, supported this plan, sparking furious backlash and causing three members of the local free school committee to resign.

Wye with Hinxhill Parish Council member John Mansfield was one of those to step down.

"When you draw up plans for a free school you won't know exactly where it will go," he said.

"Our bid was for the school to be located at Wye College, in the old Edwardian buildings and laboratories.



OLD SITE: Wye campus was deemed unsuitable

■ Wye College, which was founded in the 15th century, specialised in agricultural studies and was a well-known study and research centre for rural business and management, biological sciences and agriculture until its closure in 2009.
The site is owned by Imperial College.
■ Free Schools are all-ability state-funded schools that are set up by local people in response to what is needed to improve education for children in the community.

"A feasibility study was carried out showing how they could be refurbished and reused and careful consideration was taken with the plans."

The study showed that using the old buildings was likely to work out cheaper than a new-build. But the Education Funding Agency omitted to include the old college in its plan.

Cllr Mansfield continued: "The whole idea of using the deserted Wye College was to carry on the educational heritage of the village."

The chairman of the parish council, Tony Shoults, said it was "perverse" to decide to build a new school when there were "marvellous" buildings available and adaptable.

He said: "The village is anxious that on top of a new school in a smallish village, there will now be further users for the campus buildings in due course as well.

"A second high-intensity activity would be too much for the village to absorb."

Following the six-week consultation, Education Secretary Micheal Gove is due to sign a funding agreement for the school.

This newspaper contacted the Department for Education asking why the old college was not included in the plans, but a spokesman said it was unable to comment on individual cases.

Some Wye residents have suggested that the Edwardian buildings would be too dissimilar to the open-plan learning spaces seen in other newly-built schools.

■ For the consultation document visit http://bit.ly/ZKZJ5D.

New grammar out of the Wildernesse

A SITE has been selected for the first grammar school expansion in 50 years, with the hope of providing places for students from September 2015.

Kent County Council – which held the historic vote into grammar expansion last year following a petition by parents – confirmed the old Wildernesse School site will be the location of two new grammar school annexes.

The KCC-owned land is currently leased to the Knole Academy but due to be vacated in 2015.

The law forbids the opening of new selective schools, but changes made by the Government last year enable a grammar to open in Sevenoaks as a 'satellite' of existing girls' and boys' grammar schools.

Speculation suggests, however, that so far KCC has been unable to strike a deal with any grammars to act as the host due to fears over potential legal action taken by other schools opposing expansion.

But KCC was feeling positive this week that Sevenoaks, which has no grammar provision, will soon have places for children who pass the Kent Test.

Mike Whiting, cabinet member for education, said: "I'm sure the people who petitioned and other parents will be delighted by this news and be patient as we work with potential partners to finalise our detailed proposals for consultation."

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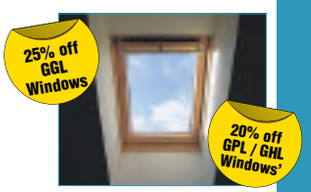
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OPINION

New year, same old problems

Unless housing development decisions consider both the economy and environment they are doomed to failure, warns **Jamie Weir**

GROWTH is a small word, but one which may have big implications for our countryside.

When it came to office, the Government launched a drive for growth and has come up with reams of new policies aimed at injecting fuel into the British economy. However, the word which has been sadly misused in most of these ideas and policies is 'sustainable'.

Much of this legislation, such as the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) has sought to cut away regulation and "red tape". Whilst the idea of minimising planning regulations may well provide a short-term shot in the arm for developers and builders, there are very few people who require housing that can afford the prices to be charged once these homes are built.

The real shortage is one of affordable homes, or at least affordable finance. What is the point in turning swathes of countryside into housing developments when few people will be able to afford to live there? Helping developers build houses in unsustainable locations is also extremely unlikely to result in any long term job creation or provide sustainable economic development.

Recently, the Government gave shale gas extraction (fracking) the green light, as well as sizeable tax breaks. Is this really going to result in any kind of 'sustainable' growth? This is just another fossil fuel that will eventually run out. The drawback to this 'dash for gas' could be significant, with problems such as the industrialisation of our countryside and potential for serious pollution, alongside many others.

Surely it would be a better idea to foster the growing renewables industry and look to become world leaders in this area, which is not only environmentally friendly, but also economically sustainable? This would support new jobs whilst also helping the Government come closer to fulfilling its 'greenest ever' pledge.

While the new year is celebrated as a 'fresh' start for many people across the country, CPRE Protect Kent is still facing many of the same challenges that it was fighting in 2012. Many of these are as a direct result of the Government's desire for growth with little thought of environmental sustainability.

Major infrastructure projects such as a new Thames crossing are still being pushed forward despite the fact it will be hugely damaging to the environment, and may well be unnecessary once high speed tolling is introduced. Other proposals such as a Thames Estuary airport are still tabled, despite clear evidence very few people think it would be a good idea, and even the Government cannot be sure new aviation capacity is even necessary in the south east. If it is not necessary, then surely spending billions of pounds on a new airport is both environmentally and economically unsustainable?



Surely it would be better to foster the growing renewables industry?

Sustainability needs to become a new watchword of our politicians. There needs to be a clear link between the economy and our environment and the Government must start to understand that our countryside is not something to be exploited; it should also be cherished.

This year could be a fresh start for the UK and for Kent, but with the Government desperately pushing for economic growth at any cost, I have the depressing feeling that environmentalists across the country will be fighting the same old battles for some years to come.

■ **Jamie Weir works for Protect Kent, the county's branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England.**

KOS COMMENT

Stop the trauma felt by so many elderly people

WE'RE all entitled to NHS treatment due to contributions made through tax and National Insurance. Some will use it more than others but we all pay; after all, who knows what the future holds?

So why, when an elderly person needs help with care – someone who has worked hard their whole life, paid tax, never relied on benefits and saved up to leave something for their family – are they left with no option but to sell their homes to pay for it?

No-one is asking the Government to pay in full, but a contribution would go a long way in helping.

We'll all either have an elderly loved one needing care or it will happen to us, so pledge support and sign the petition to see a change by 2015.

Remember us, David

HE was welcomed back this week as nothing short of a national treasure. What's more his comeback single suggests he is still on top form.

But many will not be aware of the deep Kent roots of David Bowie.

Let's hope he remembers us if he opts to tour the UK again.

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Facts speak differently, sir

I'M SURPRISED by Terry Hudson's pro-car letter about transport (KoS Letters 5/1/13).

As a transport economist I'm not quite sure what expertise he has in this field.

If he reads the environmental audit cross-party report in 2010, chaired by Tory MP Tim Yeo, he will read that vehicle pollution contributed to around 50,000 early deaths in the UK.

Does he dispute these figures and if so on what basis? Surely whatever one's party it would seem helpful to reduce this.

A simple message would be that vehicle pollution kills people and we should do our best to reduce it.

David Spurling, Sittingbourne

Hudson's on a lonely road

WHEN Terry Hudson says the reintroduction of 20mph speed limits is "not wanted" – he's not speaking for me.

The fact they were apparently abandoned in 1930 as outdated is irrelevant.

There are many more vehicles on the roads now and in areas around schools, for example, where there is a lot of pedestrian movement.

Even 30mph has become too fast, particularly so if there is any truth in his assertion the majority of drivers are breaking that limit anyway.

We have many examples of country roads in this beautiful county where speed limits should be lower, and a lower speed limit on urban roads where there is high footfall, particularly children, is wholly justifiable.

Mr Hudson implies he is just one of many motorists who routinely break speed limits and will continue to do so wherever there is no police presence or camera surveillance.

Such an irresponsible attitude is deplorable. I for one won't be joining him.

Christopher Hudson-Gool, Maidstone

20mph makes perfect sense

TERRY Hudson has a one-track mind when it comes to cars and speed.

He is patently incapable of recognising that if a car hits a pedestrian at 30mph then the pedestrian is far more likely to die or be seriously injured than if hit at 20mph.

That is why many people want a 20mph speed limit on urban residential roads.

It's not to penalise motorists, but to save lives.

He then credits the Lib Dems with this policy and somehow conflates that with our decision not to put up a candidate for the police commissioner post. He's got his facts wrong again.

We did not put up a candidate because we were unconvinced the new post of police commissioner was the right way locally to run the police and that the police should be apolitical.

Ann Barnes, as far as I am aware, stressed throughout her campaign that she was politically independent and clearly the people of Kent agreed with her.

Councillors from all main three political parties at county and district level support a 20mph limit on some urban residential roads; not all roads covered by a 30mph limit, but some residential ones.

Equally, there are Tory councillors – and maybe Labour ones too – who do not support this policy.

It's not a party political issue, but like many local matters it's, rightly, a matter of local opinion.

I, like many of my local Conservative and Labour colleagues, think that we have a duty to try to make residential areas as safe as possible.

And if that means a 20 mph speed limit then so be it.

If it saves only one life or one badly injured person then that's good enough for me.

Cllr Nick Eden-Green
Lib Dem, Wincheap ward, Canterbury

Ukip offers the way forward

I AGREE with Catherine Bearder, MEP for south east England (Letters KoS 5/1/13), that we help the world with our technology and aid to other countries.

But the reason we entered the Europeon Union was for trade between our countries; not to spend millions bolstering other nations that cannot manage their own affairs.

Britain pays millions to the fat Eurocrats each year. And what do we get in return? Nothing, but an austere outlook for years to come.

The EU has not done anything good for the UK. If David Cameron doesn't give us a referendum not only will he be lost in history, but so will our wonderful country.

All my life I've voted Tory, but not anymore.

It's about time we all woke up and voted for Ukip. It's the only party that seems to care about our little island before we are wiped off the map.

John R O'Neon, Folkestone

MEP has got EU all wrong

HAVING read the letter by Catherine Bearder MEP, in last weeks issue, I have to wonder whether she was around in the 1970s when the real referendum to join the then-Common Market was held.

I was, and voted against joining this set-up.

Ted Heath, the prime minister at the time, spoke about the five countries on the European mainland just 'itching' to buy our goods.

He ignored the fact that for every one UK truck going one way, there would be five Euro trucks coming our way.

This has worsened greatly since those days. I play a game with my grandchildren when driving on the M20 called 'Spot the UK Truck'.

The early outcomes were the end of our 'white goods' industry. the destruction of the Channel Island tomato and flower industries, our fishing industry and our car manufacturing industry.

Our balance of payments with the EU is now horrendous.

Of course, we know just what harm the free movement of labour within the EU has caused us. Other EU countries simply 'wave through' the would-be immigrants to the UK. And there is so much more that is wrong with the EU.

I have never changed my mind about my earlier vote and look forward to the opportunity of a referendum now.

I will certainly vote to quit the EU. The problem we have now is how to say 'sorry' to the Commonwealth countries for abandoning them.

And of course the EU countries will still want to sell their goods to us, We will, however, be able to bargain much better in insisting they take a bigger share of our goods in return.

I urge Ms Bearder to think of the UK more – rather than her huge EU salary and perks!

Cllr Terry Mullard, Shepway District Council and Dymchurch Parish Council

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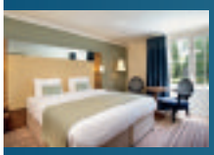
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KENT REMEMBERED



LONGEVITY: Kit's Coty's history stretches back approximately 6,000 years, gathering tales in time

Ancient stones house a fascinating history

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

TUCKED away to the north of the Pilgrims Way, at the foot of the North Downs, is one of Kent's most impressive historical structures.

Kit's Coty is the remains of a Neolithic long barrow, or prehistoric monument, used as a communal grave from around 6,000 years ago, and is also considered to be the tomb of an important tribal chief from a later date.

It forms part of the Medway Megaliths, a series of barrows which dot an ancient route at the foot of the hills to the north of Maidstone.

All are the remains of burial mounds which were built to house the bodies of the dead in prehistoric times.

Kit's Coty was famous in the 17th century as diarist Samuel Pepys writes: "Three great stones standing upright and a great round one lying on them, of great bigness, although not so big as those on Salisbury Plain. But certainly it is a thing of great antiquity, and I am mightily glad to see it."

The tallest stone is 2.4 metres high and the capstone on top measures some four by 2.7 metres. The whole structure was once covered by an earthen mound 55 metres long, as aerial photographs have shown. Side ditches were once up to 3.8 metres deep.

In 1885, Kit's Coty was one of the first sites in Britain to become a Scheduled Ancient Monument and the iron railings that surround it were added a few years later at the suggestion of an Army officer and archaeologist named Augustus Pitt Rivers. It is now in the care of English Heritage.



BEGINNING: In the Neolithic period people first began to live in permanent settlements

The Neolithic age represents the first time mankind turned to agriculture and settled the land, moving away from the hunter-gatherer lifestyle.

It was also the first age in which buildings were erected.

Archaeologist Caroline Malone said: "It seems that the role of ancestors in Neolithic society was much more important than in the world of the hunter-gatherer.

"Clans and forebears began to have symbolic importance to the settled farming communities of the Neolithic. Dead ancestors were celebrated through funerals, feasts and grave goods, and their carefully selected body-parts were housed in specially built monuments, often symbolising 'houses' of the dead.

"The tombs provide the earliest and most tangible evidence of Neolithic people and their customs, and are some of the most impressive and aesthetically distinctive constructions of prehistoric Britain."

Goats and sheep were among the animals domesticated to provide wool, milk and meat during the period. But creatures which roamed wild in Kent included bears and wolves – so the woodland which covered large areas of the county was a dangerous place.

The origin of the name Kit's Coty is shrouded in mystery and legend.

Coty itself can be traced back to old English as a word for house and it also means close to a river bank – the Medway is a few miles away

And a story takes the origin back to a legendary Dark Age warlord. According to some historians, Kit is Catigern, son of King Vortigern who, together with his brother Vortimer, fought Saxon warriors Hengist and his brother Horsa in the Medway Valley around AD455.

The tale is recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle: "This year Hengist and Horsa fought Vortigern the king, in the place called Aegelesthrep [identified as Aylesford], his brother Horsa was killed, Hengist and Aesc received the kingdom."

Catigern is said to have died during the battle and been buried close to the existing tomb, already several thousand years old. Hence Kit's House.

According to legend, the place is haunted and ghostly re-enactments of a battle are said to take place.

Another tradition is that at full moon a visitor should place a personal object on top of the stones and walk around the base three times, after which the object will have disappeared.



The Osmonds join an all-star cast for Boogie Nights show

SEE PAGE 34



GREEN GEARS

Nissan Leaf lets more drivers plug in and play

SEE PAGE 53

Kent Weekend

Prince of pies

TV chef Andy Bates tells how his journey on to our screens all began in Kent

SEE PAGE 33

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Who is the tastiest of them all?

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

WITH almost 15,000 votes cast, the Taste Of Kent Awards can now reveal the food and drink heroes of the county.

The top three finalists competing in each category have been announced ahead of the awards dinner to be held on Friday, March 8.

Each of the finalists will now be judged by an independent tasting panel, mystery diner or mystery shopper, depending on their service.

The top three in the running for the Visit Kent Restaurant Of The Year are beautiful Elvey Farm in Pluckley, Richard Phillips's Thackeray's in Tunbridge Wells – which regained a Michelin Star this year – and finally Dev Biswal's The Ambrette restaurant in Margate.

Finalists up for Opies Kent Dining Pub Of The Year include The George Inn at Molash, The Globe And Rainbow at Kilndown near Cranbrook and the Halfway House pub at Challock, near Ashford.

In the meat stakes the Stephens Fresh Food Butcher Or Meat Producer Of The Year will be chosen from Godmersham Game at Canterbury, S. W. Doughty at Doddington and Farmer Palmer at Egerton.

The BTF Best Kentish Beer for 2013 will be fought out between the Curious Brew from Chapel Down at Tenterden, the Dynamo beer from Wantsum Brewery at Canterbury and Gadds' No.3 beer from Ramsgate Brewery.

The Wilkins Kennedy Best Kentish Cider will be chosen from Biddenden's Strong Kentish Cider, the Blushing Old Wife from Rough Old Wife at Ashford and the Duddas Tun from Pine Trees Farm at Doddington.



SUCCESS: Last year's winners celebrate their victory at the Taste of Kent Awards

Nominated for the Kent County Council Kent Juice Producer Of The Year are Biddenden Vineyards, the Little Stour Orchard in Margate and Pine Trees Farm at Doddington.

The NFU Mutual Local Food Retailer Of The Year prize will be battled over by Macknade Fine Foods of Faversham, Mama Feelgoods at Bekesbourne, near Canterbury, and Quex Barn at Birchington.

Chapman's of Sevenoaks is sponsoring the prestigious Kent Fishmonger Of The Year title, which will be handed to Eddie Gilberts at Ramsgate, Snakey's at Tunbridge Wells or The Seafood Centre at Rainham.

The Shopper Anonymous Artisan Food Producer Of The Year will chosen from The Cheesemakers Of Canterbury at Dargate, near Faversham, Kent Fine Foods from Hempstead, near Gillingham, or Simply Ice Cream from Ashford.

Full details of all the awards and finalists are available online. Visit www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk for more information and tickets to join the finalists at the Taste Of Kent Awards dinner.

Micropub is open for beer and chat only

TANKERTON high street will become the latest county hot-spot to have its own micropub.

Signs have gone up around the area advertising the launch of The Tankerton Arms to open in early 2013 and dedicated to serving real ale from microbreweries across Kent.

Pub-owners Nigel and Alistair Ranger have also said they will be stocking local ciders and wines but no lagers or spirits will be served at the watering hole.

The advert said: "There will be no music, food, television or games machines. The pub will exist to encourage the drinking of good beer and good conversations."

The pub will be open Tuesday to Sunday.

A chance to work with Bake Off judge Paul

CELEBRITY chef Paul Hollywood is looking for an experienced baker to join his team at Aylesham.

Hollywood is renowned for fronting cooking programmes like Great Food Live as well as writing the best-selling 100 Great Breads.

More recently, he has been a judge on the show The Great British Bake Off alongside Mary Berry as baking fans compete to be crowned the UK's best amateur baker.

Anyone applying for the job is sure to have their work cut out as the chef is used to grilling 12 keen bakers during the 10-week TV show.

Send your CV to info@paulhollywood.com.





THE INTERVIEW

Andy Bates

Who cooked all the pies?

Television's Pie Man talks to **Joe Bill** about cooking, books and feasts on the street

FROM market stall to Miami, TV chef Andy Bates is one of the new kids on the block in the ever-growing food industry.

The former pupil at North School, Ashford, has taken his passion for pies and vision of Victoria sponges to the next level with the news of a third series on Sky's dedicated culinary channel, Food Network UK.

The 35-year-old entrepreneur owns five stalls in London's trendy markets as well as having his own shows – Street Feasts and American Street Feasts.

He said: "The whole street-food thing started in 2008. I just wanted to quite literally make pies, sit on my market stall and listen to the cricket. That's how it all began.

"Street food has become a very big thing in the last two or three years. Moving up to London, all I could see was loads of street foods from around the world, but I couldn't see anything British, like pies or Scotch eggs or a Victoria sponge cake... the old classics."

Bates's journey to the recent success of releasing his first cookbook has taken a few twists and turns along the way.

"At 15 I first started at the Hooden On The Hill pub in Willesborough as a wash-up, and then I started cooking there, too.

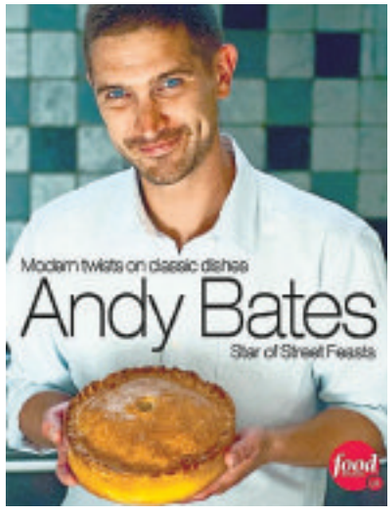
"I think pubs are a good way for chefs to start out, whether you want to go to London or stay more rural. There is so much to do in Kent and so many restaurants – there are Michelin stars popping up everywhere now."

The chef, affectionately known as the Pie Man, finished school before heading to Canterbury College to study catering, spending part of his third year working in a restaurant in Normandy, France.

And despite venturing away from cooking for a decade, the passion for food never left him.

"I ended up working for almost 10 years in production for music videos and commercials and things, which was fun, but really I just found myself hanging around in the catering truck, talking to the caterers, so I never let it go.





ON THE STREETS: Ashford's Andy Bates shares his love of pies both on television and in a new book

"In the beginning I started making pies for friends' birthdays and would get texts days later saying 'Mate I am still eating this pie, it's amazing' and I just thought that there was something in there for me to do.

"I didn't have much direction at the time and just thought it would be a good thing to get back into. So I started reading a lot of books, old, classic British cookbooks, and watched a lot of food programmes on TV and really just started taking note of everything I was seeing."

The chef has his Eat My Pies stalls at bazaars including the White Cross street market in Islington as well as Broadway Market and Camden Passage, which eventually presented the opportunity on Food Network UK.

"I got spotted because of my stalls, really. A friend was working for this company who were looking for new chefs and new talent and they asked me to try it. At first I didn't want to be on TV, having worked in it before, but friends just said to me 'You have got to do this, you have to give this a go – it's a great opportunity'.

"So I went for it and it seems to have worked out. I did some small fillers to start, just two- or three-minute recipes. Through that, they said 'This seems good, let's give him a show'. So I'm on a crazy little journey, which I'm very grateful for."

Andy, who grew up in Mersham, near Ashford, has so far bagged two series of his hit show Street Feasts, including a version that saw him travel around America discovering new flavours and street dishes.

"I learned so much out there, from ceviche to tacos. I really enjoyed America.

"The Street Feast series is four guys on the road just having fun and filming food – that is all really good. We have had two series so far and I have my first book out through Food Network. I'm not trying to change the world – just put together some homely, simple recipes."

Bates has also appeared on the channel alongside Food Network co-star Adam Richman, best known for hit show Man V Food.

"It's still all at the beginning of it all, I've only been doing it for two years – I'm 35 now and it appears to be going well at the minute."

And the Pie Man is very modest about his achievements in the industry, citing chef Simon Hopkinson as a hero: "He just does great British classics and really good food."

The show now broadcasts to more than 70 countries and, with his stalls still to run, Bates is keeping his feet on the floor.

"I want to take it all as it comes and enjoy every moment of it. We will be doing another series this year, but I'm not sure if it will be street food again – we've got options.

"There are things on the horizon, which is exciting and for which I'm very grateful and need to take advantage of it while it lasts. That's the way to look at it – who knows where it will go? As long as I keep meeting lots of great people and eating lots of good food, I'll be happy."

And the thought of bringing his popular pies and British grub down to Kent has crossed the Mersham man's mind.

"I'm busy with Food Network and running a small business, so I just have to balance it. I would love to come down and do some pop-ups in Kent. It has the best strawberries and great asparagus, so I have a great love of the produce there. There is so much to offer."

And as for his Pie Man nickname, the chef isn't not too worried about that, either.

"I' m all right with that – it's just what came along and seems to have stuck."

■ **Watch Andy Bates on Food Network UK (Channel Freeview 48 and Sky 262/263) in American Street Feasts every Tuesday from 6pm in January. Visit www.foodnetwork.co.uk to find out more about his book.**

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Divas do the disco

Boogie Nights

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Thursday, January 31-Saturday, February 2
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

AN all-star cast will front the new tour of Boogie Nights – The 70s Musical In Concert, which comes to The Orchard this month.

The Osmonds, singer Gareth Gates, actress Louisa Lytton, X Factor stars Andy Abrahams and Chico and Shane Richie Jnr take to the stage to show off this iconic era of music.

Boogie Nights was the West End's original jukebox musical, conceived by Jon Conway and Shane Richie in 1997, and has since toured the world.

The highlight will be The Osmonds returning from the US to perform such unforgettable hits as Crazy Horses.

Tickets are priced from £27.50-£34.50.

Do you value a glass of milk?

The big issues

Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Friday, January 5
01892 678678

HOW much is beauty worth? What will people pay for an air guitar on eBay? What's the value of a glass of milk?

These urgent questions and others are answered in The Price Of Everything, a performance lecture about value. Daniel Bye's whistlestop tour of bizarre facts and arguments is in turn shambolic and controversial – but always funny.

This show is a must if you've ever wondered about the difference between the price of an object and its value. The Times described the show as "the future of British theatre".

Tickets are priced at £14 and the show recommended for those aged 14 and above. Visit www.trinitytheatre.com.



Improve your garden skills

Workshop

Godinton House, Ashford
Saturday, February 16
01233 643854
godinton-house-gardens.co.uk

SEE off those winter blues by treating yourself to a workshop at Godinton House and learning new skills to revamp your garden in 2013.

The spring programme starts with the rose-pruning workshop.

The courses are run by Viv Hunt, Godinton's head gardener, and Fiona Abrahams, lecturer at Hadlow College.

They share their knowledge in these relaxed workshops, with the emphasis on small groups giving everyone a chance to put their own questions.

The pair will demonstrate rose-pruning and training techniques on the climbers, ramblers and shrub roses throughout the fabulous gardens at Godinton.

Tickets for the workshop are priced at £55.



The hunter or the hunted?

Snared alive

Quex Park, Birchington
Wednesday, January 30
01843 842168
www.quexmuseum.org

IN the African bush, a hunter is confronted by an angry conservationist armed with a gun. Bound by his own snare, the poacher pleads for his life.

In this tale of entrapment and desperation, who can tell the hunter from the hunted? Snared is a new show that fuses live action with film to unravel the issues surrounding wildlife conservation.

Written by Flloyd Toulet and directed by Nicholas Collett, Snared confronts an age-old problem in Africa.

Proceeds from the show will fund the anti-poaching work of the Born Free Foundation in Zambia and poverty reduction initiatives via The High Five Club in Africa.

Tickets are priced at £10 for people aged 15 and above.

The France Show will be bringing the best of France to Earls Court, London from 18-20 January 2013

Enjoy cookery demonstrations and can can dancers, listen to bestselling authors Kate Mosse and Carol Drinkwater, sample fine wines and champagne, visit the French market, pick up holiday ideas, and browse thousands of properties for sale in the French Property Exhibition – the best of France in a day!

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Fancy a camping holiday with a twist? Win a week's holiday for four people in beautiful Auvergne in the heart of France, staying in a tradition Mongolian yurt. A furnished yurt offers the chance to get back to nature without giving up those all-important home comforts.



See the south-west in style
Explore the beautiful south-west of France with a self-drive Morgan experience and spend three nights in a luxury château. It's the ultimate in stylish trips and an unforgettable way to get to know the south-west with its perched villages and spectacular countryside.



Win a break for two in Champagne
We've joined forces with Arblaster & Clarke Wine Tours and *France Magazine* to offer a lucky winner two places on *France Magazine's* weekend break to Champagne in September 2013. Try some of France's finest fizz while getting to know more about this most famous of wines.

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ENGLISH Heritage has slashed entry prices to Dover Castle for January, with family tickets cut by £17.

Tickets include the Secret Wartime Tunnels featuring the Dunkirk evacuation experience Operation Dynamo, plus King Henry II's Great Tower.

Prices for adults are reduced from £16.50 to £10 and children get in for just £6 each in the month-long offer. A family ticket (two adults and up to three children) is £26.

Dover Castle's Neil McCollum said: "January is always a bit of a let-down after the excitement of Christmas and as it is also traditionally our quietest month we thought it would be a great way of bringing some cheer to the people of Kent by giving them a low-cost day out."

Opening times 10am-4pm.



French folky
Get intimate with Flossie

The Black Robin Inn, Kingston, near Canterbury
Sunday, January 13
01227 831493

FRENCH folk-singer Flossie Malavialle entered the UK folk scene in 2001 while she was on a teaching exchange in north-east England.

She loved it so much in Newcastle that she ended up staying there.

With her profile now going from strength to strength, she plays at folk clubs and festivals across the UK and this weekend has an intimate gig at The Black Robin in Kingston.

Her repertoire extends from folk to jazz to blues.

She loves high-energy songs and has supported top bands like Show Of Hands and Fairport Convention.

The pub opens from 5pm, with the concert starting at 6.30pm. Tickets cost £12; visit www.folkinthebarn.co.uk.



Devil doll and friends
Circus of Horrors

The Winter Gardens, Margate
Saturday, March 2
01843 292795
www.margatewintergardens.co.uk

JUST 17 years after its conception at the 1995 Glastonbury Festival, the Circus of Horrors has toured the world achieving cult status and dragging circus into the 21st century.

The new sensation, which stormed into the finals of Britain's Got Talent, is packed with fresh shocks that will take you on a whirlwind journey like a bat out of hell into 1927 Berlin.

The Twenties was a decadent decade, the birth of the cabaret and home to the devil doll.

The new performance is a sequel to 2012's acclaimed show The Ventriloquist and has been renamed The Curse Of The Devil Doll after a series of bizarre incidents during the last tour.

Tickets are priced from £18.50- £21.50.

Save your cash and the planet
Energy fair

County Square, Ashford
Saturday, January 19
Midday to 4pm
www.ashford.gov.uk

WITH budgets tighter at the start of a new year, a new event in Ashford's County Square will give visitors ideas on how to save money and be more energy-efficient.

The Greenov Energy Fair is an interactive exhibition featuring 20 local businesses offering interesting, practical and affordable green solutions that could save you money.

See the amazing bicycle that generates enough energy to power a smoothie-maker and many more fun features.

From mmidday to 4pm, TV presenter Kaddy Lee Preston will be on hand to talk visitors through the exhibition stands and encourage shoppers to get involved and learn about saving energy.

The event is free to enter.



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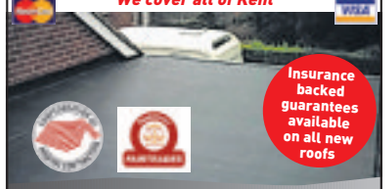
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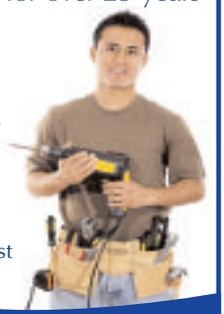
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Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 or call 0906 635 0508

(T&C's below)

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521**

SINGLE mum, 35, white British, 5ft 2ins, varied interests, looking for male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400329**

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

JOYCE 82, widow, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

MARY 61, lot to give, likes country/western, animals, gardening, dancing, seeking someone special. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399269**

FEMALE early 60's lots to offer someone special likes dancing music divorced looking for someone could it be you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400213**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

BLACK African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272**

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173**

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248**

PAT widowed mid 60's blonde female, loves dancing, happy-go-lucky WLTM similar aged nice male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389195**

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**

RETIRED teacher, blonde, 5ft 4ins, medium build, youthful, easy-going, likes most things, seeks tall, refined gent for meaningful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397363**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

MICHELLE petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, OHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399515**

SENSUAL female looking to enjoy life a little more, seeking likeminded male to enjoy interesting conversations over dinner, hopefully furthering our experience. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399195**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

SANDRA outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, likes life, fit, active, seeks male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393065**

DEBBIE 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398127**

YOUNG looking lady, late 50's, medium build, caring, intelligent, seeks kind, caring, intelligent man with GSOH of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398095**

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, likes animals, seeks kind, gentleman to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394923**

LYN 59, slim, fair, looking for someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397347**

LOUISE loving, caring, thoughtful lady, likes photography, countryside, animals, seeks mature, N/S, genuine, caring, N/S gent with car to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397239**

45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319**

VALERIE looking for genuine male for nights out and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387173**

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FEMALE 21, brown eyes, loving, looking for male, 20-30 for nights in and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396057**

INTERESTING attractive, uncomplicated, intelligent lady, many interests, seeks honourable, kind gent, 68-75 for long term companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392211**



*18+ Only. Texts to 65125 cost £1.50/msg. min of 2 msgs. To STOP text STOP to 65125 See t'cs below

FOLKESTONE lady, 58, 5ft 1ins, animal lover, cuddly, affectionate, GSOH, seeks male, 58-63 to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395551**

SUE 54, fairly slim, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks male, 45-55, N/S, likes football, sports, meals out etc., looking for lasting relationship and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392803**

WIDOW 70's, many interests, seeks gent who misses companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396401**

SUE 53, slim, blue eyes, likes football, animals, seeks N/S male, 45-55 for loving, lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386247**

FEMALE likes country walks, gardening, animals, seeks male for company, meals out and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390147**

LYNETTE 60, South African, new to area, N/S, sociable, like the outdoors, looking for new friends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386387**

BLACK female, 30, likes animals, swimming, music, singing, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395941**

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395805**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386401**

CLAUDIA curvy size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611**

HAPPY go lucky lady, seeks tall, honest guy, 50-56 hopefully with a boat. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392529**

PAT 67, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, widow, likes dancing, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390201**

KENTISH lady, 50, no longer wishes to make do or mend broken heart, seeks kind gent to form patchwork moments. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392865**

LISA tall slim elegant black lady looking for gentleman for company, 50-90yrs. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391394**

HAZEL blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366319**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

BLACK lady, 52, likes cinema, nights in/out, seeking male, 49-55 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390925**

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTM male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497**

SUSIE from Kent, seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**

MARY likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847**

LONELY Folkestone lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, medium build, N/S, seeks caring, considerate male for walks by the sea and pubs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371067**

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217**

47YR old female, 5ft 6ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389413**

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501**

JULIE late 70's, petite, widowed, seeks gent with car and GSOH who loves animals. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379277**

49YR old lady, honest, sincere, easygoing, likes a laugh, looking for love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359059**

INDEPENDENT 52yr old slim, N/S female, likes country walks, swimming, animals, meals/days out, seeks N/S similar aged male for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366099**

Men Seeking

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Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 (T&C's below)

PAUL 52, businessman, own home, seeks female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401127**

DENNIS 64, retired, solvent, 6ft 4ins, 16st, widower, seeks friendly, attractive female for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401095**

STEVE 64, young at heart, ex-marine, likes meals out, seeking female with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401063**

RICHARD blue eyes, 48, slim-medium build, likes travel, theatre, cinema, music, meals out, walks, countryside, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401049**

LONELY male, 75, 6ft, N/S, OHAC, seeks lady for friendship/companionship to share our twilight years. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393830**

PHIL 61, 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, likes cooking, gardening, football, meals out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400519**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, independent, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400403**

MARGATE gent 70's, easygoing, tactile, seeking company of lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400995**

SLIM bi male, smooth, seeks male, 50 plus for flexible daytime fun. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394012**

51YR old male, dark hair, 6ft, N/S, good looking, likes finer things in life, seeks lady for fun times and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399867**

PLEASANT single black male, slim, 41, good natured, likes most things, seeks likeminded lady for possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399825**

DEREK 52, black male, honest, trustworthy, loyal, hardworking, likes nights out, meals out, quiet pubs, seeking similar lady for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393886**

SALVATORE 68, widow, looking for female to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399613**

JAMIE tall slim fit 63 solvent generous retired seeks vivacious fun lady for no strings fun. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400211**

DAVID 51 medium build short hair blue eyes widowed likes nights in/out walks with dog caring thoughtful seeks honest genuine female 45-56 for friendship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400099**

BOBBY 39, Afro/Asian decent, dark hair/eyes, likes nights in/out, walks, animals, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398147**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, GSOH, kind, considerate, easy going, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399935**

FUN fit, friendly 50yr old male, medium build, seeking female for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400045**

JACK 28, fun loving, seeking female to share the good and bad times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393878**

DOWN to earth 49yr old male, GSOH, OHAC, happy go lucky, fit, intelligent, witty, many interests, seeks young at heart female to share life experiences with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399965**

YOUNG 64yr old male, slim, GSOH, adventurous, outgoing, likes most things, seeks easy going, laidback, open-minded lady for friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399539**

BRIAN 6ft 3ins, medium build, dark hair, seeking romantic, caring lady for meals out, nights in, cuddles and true love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399451**

ADRIAN young 59, likes travel, sports, seeks fun, attractive lady 40-50's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399355**

20YR old male, looking for female, 45-50 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393676**

RAY 41, shy, likes gardening, allotments, mopeds, seeks shy lady 41-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397301**

MALE 67, 14st, tall, educated, happy go lucky, seeks nice female, 50-65 for companionship. Folkestone/Deal area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398743**

RICHARD seeking young female for good times and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397883**

WIDOWER 70, lonely, fed up, seeks female for nights out, meals and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397875**

MARTYN 45, average guy, likes films, theatre, meals out, GSOH, seeks similar female for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397863**

RICHARD 60, 5ft 11ins, medium build, N/S, driver, looking for female for meals out, places of interest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393508**

DAN 44, fun, seeking nice female to share Sundays and lonely Winter nights with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398425**

MARK 49, likes running, music, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393554**

PAUL 51, blond, blue eyes, fed up, likes walks, nights in/out seeks lady, 50-60 for friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398991**

PHIL young 63, GSOH, 6ft, medium build, easy going, seeking female, all woman for lots of love and attention. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399149**

YOUNG toy boy, GSOH, seeks mature, attractive, curvy lady, 45-55 for fun times and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398419**

74YR old widower, honest, fit, likes walks, weekends away, seeks lady for companionship. Maidstone/Medway area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398247**

Gay Seeking

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IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY601** to **65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service. **(T&C's below)**

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YOUTHFUL 60yr old male, bi-curious, seeks similar aged male for uncomplicated friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394116**

EASY-GOING guy, 64, medium build, 5ft 10ins, likes outdoors, seeks slim, quiet, N/S guy for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400371**

GAY male, new to scene, seeks male, 50-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400025**

Friendship

JACK mature male, Thanet area, seeks friends of either sex, any age for chats. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399455**

STRAIGHT male, 39, Medway, seeks pals for socialising, likes pubs, cinema, golf, table tennis, football. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398421**

YVONNE 60, seeks male/female friends for chats, any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397641**



Women TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. **Texts cost £1.50** per message Help Desk: **0844 445 7707**

GUYS TEXT FOR FUN. SEND KOS followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to **66888**
(T&C's below)

50Yr old Christian brunette, attractive, friendly, lonely, likes bowling, reading, cooking, outdoor life. **Text KOS 154567 to 66888**

BEAUTIFUL thing, attractive lady, n/s, beautician, enjoys fashion, antique fairs, days out & country drives. Want to know more. Text me. **Text KOS 159134 to 66888**

FUN blue eyed blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun. **Text KOS 163788 to 66888**

HEY guys! My interests include music, reading, tattoos, cooking, hanging out with mates and many more things. Text me! **Text KOS 168355 to 66888**

I AM an adventurous, outgoing and loyal person. I enjoy going places and trying new things I am a very active person. **Text KOS 172922 to 66888**

FUN, bubbly, happy go lucky, single, mummy, work hard, play hard, friends, family, horse, gym, wine, movies, random nights **Text KOS 218842 to 66888**

I LOVE going out and having a laugh. Im new to all this, so be patient lol. **Text KOS 182056 to 66888**

Men TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. **Texts cost £1.50** per message Help Desk: **0844 445 7707**

LADIES TEXT FOR FUN. SEND KOS followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to **66888**
(T&C's below)

DIVORCED Male 59, VGSOH, n/s easy-going, enjoy music, poker, cooking, watch football, having a pint in a local pub. **Text KOS 488556 to 66888**

I LOVE the arts, countryside and eating out. Honest, sensuous, with lots to share and give. **Text KOS 493123 to 66888**

I HAVE many interests but derive pleasure from everyday things,whether it be a walk in the park or a coffee by the river. **Text KOS 497690 to 66888**

ROMANTIC guy. I have many interests, but derive pleasure from everyday things, whether it be a walk in a park or coffee by the river. **Text KOS 502257 to 66888**

SPORTY gentleman, 46 yo I have a fun friendly chatty personality! Drop me a line :) **Text KOS 506824 to 66888**

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• Excursions to: Monaco with Grandstand seating at first practice day with F1, GP2, Formula 3 and Porsche Cup cars - worth £65; plus Portofino & Dolceacqua in Italy
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	1, 8, 15, 22 Mar	3	£99
	11, 25 Feb	4	£99
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Includes nightly entertainment			
Grand Hotel Llandudno	8, 15, 22 Feb	3	£89
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• Full entertainment programme
• 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available
• 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

New 2013

Your guide to making a better YOU in the new year

MOTORING

Gear up for greener driving

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A BIG trend for motoring in the coming months is the 'greenness' of your car. As well as being fairer on the environment, being eco-friendly is a good way for drivers to save cash.

Fuel economy is a hot topic and car firms are responding by making their cars evermore efficient. It is now common to see new cars returning more than 80mpg – even mainstream family cars regularly average more than 60mpg.

Good fuel economy goes hand in hand with low emissions, so there is a double-bonus to buying an economical car – you pay less in tax.

Both road fund licence and company car tax are based on carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions: the lower they are, the less you pay.

Vehicle emissions contribute to the increasing concentration of gases linked to climate change and, in order of significance, the principal greenhouse gases associated with road transport are CO_2, methane and nitrous oxide.

Road transport is the third-largest source of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK and accounts for more than 20 per cent of total emissions. Of the total greenhouse gas emissions from transport, more than 85 per cent are due to CO_2 emissions from road vehicles.

The transport sector is the fastest-growing source of greenhouse gases, so car designers are constantly trying to make their vehicles more sustainable and environmentally friendly, and new technology means that hybrid cars are improving in both quality and power.

Leading marques now available include the Infiniti M35h with a 3.5L V-6 engine and a 67 horsepower advanced electric motor, heated leather front seats, bi-functional xenon headlights and seven-speed automatic transmission.



The BMW 3 series is going hybrid and the ActiveHybrid 3 boasts a V6 and goes from 0-60mph in just over five seconds.

Ford is famous for affordable cars and the C-MAX Hybrid is no exception – with front-wheel-drive and a 2L I-4 hybrid engine, it packs plenty of space to load up the luggage.

GREEN: Eco-friendly driving is good for both the environment and your bank balance



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NEW 2013

AWARD

Nurse commended for her dedication to beauty offers a shining example

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

AESTHETIC nurse Kelly Costello, who specialises in non-surgical anti-ageing treatments, has been singled out for a top award

The MyFaceMyBody Awards named her company Fill Your Face as highly-commended winners at the industry awards as health and beauty professionals gathered at the prestigious Landmark Hotel.

The evening had an international guest list as well as celebrities and some of the best dental and aesthetic practitioners in the world.

Kelly Costello of Fill Your Face came highly commended in the best mobile practitioner award.

"At first it didn't sink in as I didn't really realise what I had done and how important the event was," said Kelly, who has practices in Whistable and Rainham.

"I'd like to thank my customers as they were the ones who got me the award. It's all of us, not just me, who achieved the recognition."

Stephen Handisides, owner of MyFaceMyBody, said: "The competition was fierce, so even making the short-list was an accomplishment. These awards were voted on by consumers – the people actually using these products and services, so they mean so much more.

"I would like to thank everyone who attended – especially those who gave generously to our charity, Bridge2Aid.

"We have had more than 12,500 consumers voting for their favourite brands and more than 2,500 industry professionals involved in the awards. Our intention was to create a glamorous and influential evening which also had credibility because it is voted on by consumers rather than industry insiders – and we certainly achieved that.

"The awards showcased the quality of Kelly Costello, of Fill Your Face, and demonstrated our popularity among consumers."

Kelly works with people aged from about 35 upwards – her oldest client is aged 96.

Recommendation comes via word of mouth and after an initial consultation results can be achieved in a short period of time.

"I find out what it is that people want and then we go on from there," said Kelly.

"I can offer a range of treatments and can ensure they are all geared to exactly what is required by the individual client."



HEALTH

Change your lifestyle

WHAT better resolution to make than to give yourself a healthier way of life?

To make a new you for 2013, diet is key. Here is some advice from experts to help improve how you look and feel.

Modern life can make it easy to eat and drink more than anyone realises while doing little physical activity. The result is often weight gain.

To lose weight, people need to change their habits. This means eating less – even when eating a healthy, balanced diet – and getting more active.

According to NHS advice, drastic fad diets and exercise regimes that result in rapid weight loss are unlikely to work for long because these kinds of lifestyle changes can't be maintained.

Once the regime is stopped, it is likely the dieter will return to old habits and regain weight.

Instead, doctors say those looking for a healthier lifestyle should choose diet and physical activity changes that can be made a part of a daily routine and stuck to for life.

Keeping to a healthy diet, exercising, walking rather than taking the car and cutting down on alcohol consumption are all things that can be taken on board throughout the year.

The NHS says there are three things that can be done immediately:

- Take the next snack you plan to have and swap it for something healthier.
- Swap a sugary fizzy drink for sparkling water with a slice of lemon.
- Fit just one extra walk into your day. Ideally, you should walk 10,000 steps a day – that's not as many as it sounds!

FILL YOUR FACE COSMETICS
ageing is optional



Kelly Costello of Fill Your Face & The Inner Goddess provides the very best, safest and most cost effective treatments. Aesthetics & Holistics. Clinics in Whitstable, Rainham & Rochester...this is an example of what her many clients say:

Cheryl Millsom - *"I have been to Kelly for numerous things from facials to eyebrows. She is warm, friendly and makes me feel relaxed. I would highly recommend Kelly Costello and FYF to everyone, for her professionalism and her honesty, and of course the results!!!!"*

Joanne Standen - *"Kelly puts you at ease and her professional approach are reassuring and the results are great. She is always honest in what she can achieve and never gives false expectations".*

Talita Wigg - *"Kelly deals with great integrity, pride and passion. She always follows up on her appointments and makes sure that I am 100% satisfied. I have recommended her to so many of my friends who all love her work. Her results are perfect every time!"*

Deborah Lovel -*"It's so hard to find a competent aesthetic nurse, when you do find one however, you need to hold onto them! I went to one of the best Plastic Surgeons in London for a Rhinoplasty & would only have considered returning to him for further aesthetic treatments. Now I can travel 6 miles & have treatments on a par with his Clinic. I wish Kelly all the success she can have for her business, she certainly deserves it".*

For a free consultation, please call, or for further information on which treatments are available, visit the website!

MyFaceMyBody AWARDS 2012 HIGHLY COMMENDED

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NEW 2013

EXERCISE

Try our simple tips to get your blood pumping

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk



THE new year is the chance to get fit and get into shape. And it needn't be a total grind.

Here are some hints to getting the trim body you have always wanted.

Choose activities you like
A lot of different things count as exercise, including dancing, walking, gardening, yoga or cycling.

Break things up
You don't need to get all your exercise at one time. Ten minutes morning, noon and night can give much the same benefit as 30 minutes all at once.

Team up
Finding a workout partner can help keep you on track and motivate you.

Go up a gear
When you walk, make it brisk, since this may help control weight better than walking at a leisurely pace. You can also time your steps for one minute: 120 to 135 steps per minute corresponds to a walking pace of three to four miles per hour. Over time, you'll stride your way to a faster walking pace.

Variety is the spice of lunch
Don't spend all of your break time sitting down. Go to the gym or go for a 20-minute walk and then have a meal when you are done.

Step up
Use the stairs in offices and shops whenever possible.

Aid digestion
After a big meal, take a long walk.

On the road
During a journey, get off the bus a stop or two earlier and walk the rest of the way.

Keep your distance
If you drive to work or to run errands, park your car a little farther from your office or the store. It may not seem like much, but over weeks and months, these minutes of exercise really do add up.

Be a good sport
If you've got friends in a football or cricket team, go along to training. You might even get a game. Alternatively, take up a new sport like tennis or golf. The more you enjoy exercise, the more likely you are to stick to it.

It all counts
Monitoring the amount of activity you get each day will help to make you more accountable.

Shanks's pony
Leave the car at home for trips that are less than a mile or two.

Get help
Hire a personal trainer for a session or two to help you with your weight-training and flexibility training. Then you'll have the confidence to branch out on your own.

Take the plunge
Go to the pool and have a swim – and walk there and back.

Mix it up
Cut back on TV viewing and computer use, visit the gym, or even just straighten up around the house.

Plan ahead
Set aside a time in your schedule to exercise and put it in your planner.

Reward yourself
Set short-term goals – and reward yourself for achieving them. Try targeting a specific event, such as a road race or a walk-for-charity, to participate in. This should help to keep you motivated.





NEW 2013



INTERIORS

Small steps to give your home a style revamp

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

IMAGINATION and influences from across the world are all you need when it comes to interior design in 2013.

Emerald green is set to be one of the most influential colours for decoration, whether it be furniture or décor. Growth, renewal and prosperity are all things traditionally associated with the shade and it has many links with the natural world.

Wall art is another factor that is important when the look of a room is top of the list.

Whether contemporary or classical works, the frames and pictures they hold are a fast way to update the look of a room and stamp your individuality and flair on any room.

Art has an ability to showcase thoughts, feelings and emotions and so add a perfect personal touch to any home.

Designs on cushions and throws are another way of individualising an interior – bright colours and intricate designs can contrast superbly with sofas and chairs to create a harmonious environment.

Florals on white backdrops are also gaining in popularity, along with textured prints and eco-inspired products – sustainability is key for the year ahead.

Organic materials such as wood and natural fibres are always preferable to any other, making the room a friendlier and warmer place. Plus an integration of old and new is a great way to add contrast.

Current trends can be combined with timeless materials to make sure the home is a place that takes the very best of 2013 and what has gone before.





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NEW 2013

JOBS

Make yourself at home as a new apprentice in the hospitality industry

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk



NEW opportunities are set to be made available for young people who want to work in the hospitality industry.

People 1st, the sector skills council for hospitality, passenger transport, travel and tourism, is working to obtain apprenticeship opportunities.

The group is in partnership with HIT Training, a national training provider for the sector, and The South East Apprenticeship Company (SEAC), which specialises in apprenticeship training.

The aim is to help hospitality and catering businesses in Kent understand the benefits of taking on an apprentice.

Three free events will take place in 2013 to give employers advice on how to get started with apprenticeships, as well as information around current grants available and also where to discover more information.

Apprenticeships give employers a great opportunity to attract and retain staff by offering relevant on-the-job training that they can tailor to their needs.

At the same time, they allow learners to gain experience while working towards a nationally-recognised qualification.

In the hospitality industry research shows that businesses see a return on their investment in an apprentice over the first 13 months.

Further evidence from employers also demonstrates that apprentices are more productive and stay longer with the company than their peers who do the same job but are not on an apprenticeship.

Phone 07587 771274 or email natalie@se-apprenticeship.co.uk to find out more, including dates and venues for the events and to book your place.



LEARN ON THE JOB: Apprentices make a valuable asset in the hospitality industry

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NEW 2013

RETIREMENT

Enjoy a new lease of life in your retirement when you downsize

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE new year is a time for change – and one major move you can make is a new home.

For most of us, the thought of moving house is a testing time and it can be an even more daunting prospect if you're thinking about leaving your family home and downsizing.

Of course, saying goodbye to somewhere you've lived for a long time is bound to be difficult, but a local retirement development really can offer you a new lease of life.

Darwin Court, in Margate, has many residents who tell a similar story. After taking the plunge and buying a retirement property, starting afresh in a sociable environment that's within walking distance of a number of local facilities, has been the best move that they have ever made.

It comprises 73 apartments, with an estate manager, Fran Fearn, who is employed on site and is responsible for the day-to-day running of the development as well as providing a welcoming, safe and secure environment for residents.

Residents benefit from a range of on-site facilities and services, including a communal lounge, garden, 24-hour staff presence and one hour a week of domestic assistance.

A restaurant is available for lunchtime meals. Emergency pull-cords are in the communal areas as well as individual apartments for any resident who requires assistance.

The emphasis at Darwin Court is on independent living. Residents are highly sociable, with a number of activities on offer, including coffee mornings, indoor bowls and cards. Residents can join in with as many or as few activities as they wish.

Fran said: "We're in a wonderful, secure location here. A bus stop and National Express stop are right outside our development. A doctors' surgery is a short walk away and a number of supermarkets are within easy reach. All major supermarkets and the milkman deliver direct to front doors.

"At Christmas we had a particularly enjoyable time, with the mayor visiting us.

"Moving into a private retirement apartment can be daunting, especially if you're on your own, but most of our residents have been in that position previously and have positively thrived since coming here."







KEEP ACTIVE: Darwin Court retirement homes offer independent living and a bustling social life

"I wish I'd downsized years ago"



If most of your time (and money) is spent maintaining a family home when your children have flown the nest, then we can help.

As we get older, personal circumstances may change and even for the most active and independent of us there are things that can become difficult to manage.

For most, the idea of downsizing can seem daunting, but let **Retirement Homesearch** take the hassle and stress away from you.

We have eight one and two-bedroom apartments at Darwin Court, Harold Road, Margate.

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Retirement Homesearch

NEW 2013

HOME

Spring to the countryside for a real new start

LOOKING for a new home in 2013? A new development in Chartham could be just what you need.

The Pentland Homes development of 25 properties has already attracted interest from families, with the first phase of homes released having prices ranging from £249,500-£472,000.

Kingfisher Place is by the River Stour and surrounded by the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The village has a school and shops and excellent access to Canterbury.

Janet Burnell, sales and marketing director, said: "Kingfisher Place is a lovely site offering a real mix of properties to suit families of all sizes.

"We've seen high interest, with several 'early bird' reservations, despite the fact the homes aren't built yet, so we expect a flurry of interest following our show-home opening on 12th January."

The scheme comprises two-, three-, four- and five-bedroom homes with external characteristics to suit their traditional heritage, including oast-style features and farm-style properties with black-and-white weatherboard.

The properties vary in size and layout, but all have fully-fitted kitchens with a range of appliances, bathrooms with white sanitaryware and underfloor heating on the ground floor.

The four-bedroom show home opens on Saturday, January 12, and the sales office is open five days a week – Thursday to Sunday from 9.30am to 4pm and Monday from 9.30am to 2.30pm.

Visit www.pentlandhomes.co.uk or phone the sales office on 01227 731407.



Show home now open!

Kingfisher Place

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Situated in the heart of the Kent countryside, yet close to Canterbury and Ashford, Kingfisher Place is a select development of 25 outstanding two, three, four and five bedroom homes. There is a variety of house types, all beautifully designed and constructed to complement the surrounding countryside.

Our new four bedroom show home is now open for viewing, see below for opening times.

Prices from £249,500 to £472,000





Above are local area photographs. Main picture is a computer generated view of the development for illustrative purposes only.

For more information please call 01227 731407

The Show Home and Sales Office are open Thursday to Sunday 9.30am to 4pm and on Mondays from 9.30am to 2pm.

www.pentlandhomes.co.uk

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NEW 2013

BUSINESS

Extra cash available to young entrepreneurs

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk



BUSINESS has received a boost as 2013 gets under way with a Government announcement that it is to add a further £30 million to the pot for start-up loans and also expand the age range that can apply.

Now, the scheme has been extended to include 18- to 30-year-olds, as opposed to those aged from 18-24.

The boost will lift the total amount for the loans to more than £110m over the next three years.

Applicants can get their hands on a variety of start-up loans, although the Government said the typical deal was a low-interest loan that ministers say would be "typically in the order of £2,500 with a repayment period of up to five years".

The extra money will be delivered in two chunks – £10m in the 2013-14 financial year and £20m in 2014-15.

Roger House, Federation of Small Businesses chairman for Kent and Medway, welcomed the news.

He said: "Finance continues to be hard to get for people who want to set up a business, so it is good news that more funding is now available to more people.

"However, in some cases £2,500 may not get a business very far, so we would call for a more flexible approach where a start-up could apply for more if needed. We also believe that delivery of this finance should be through the business bank once it is established so that all Government finance initiatives are housed under one roof."

Mentoring and additional support are also on offer. In the three months the Start-Up Loans service has been live, more than £1.5m worth of loans have been approved, with more than 460 businesses benefiting.

"It is by backing our entrepreneurs and championing small business that we can drive forward and grow the economy, and equip this country for the highly competitive era we are in,"

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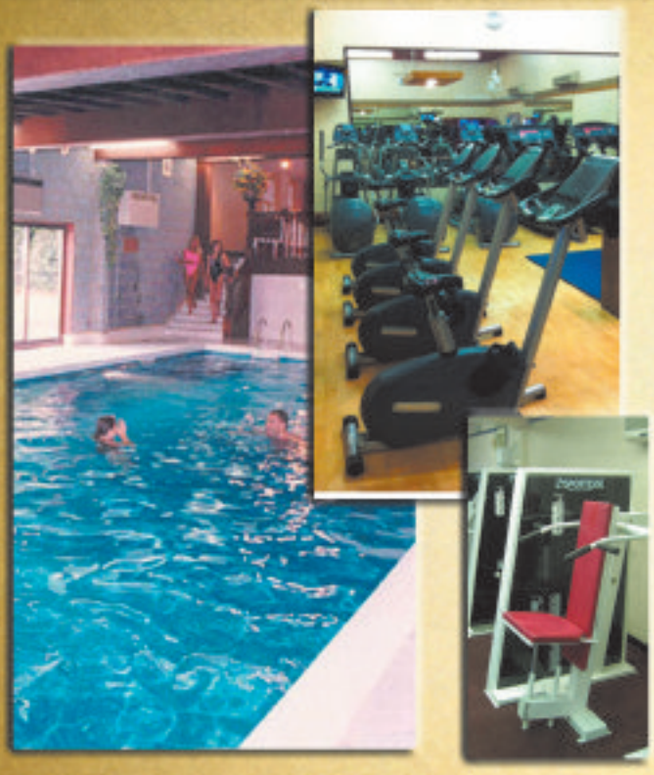
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Your business is our business

Come to Kent, US firms are urged in marketing drive

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

KENT is being marketed in the US as the best British place for hi-tech businesses to invest.

A network of Boston-based agents is set to promote the county as the ideal destination for American companies looking to relocate or establish a European base of operations.

The facilities at Discovery Park, Sandwich, and Kent Science Park, Sittingbourne, are two of the trump cards for Kent County Council and Locate in Kent, who want to bring in "hi-tech jobs in a world market".

The three-year initiative will work alongside Government agency UK Trade and Investment.

UK rivals for inward investment include Liverpool and Manchester.

Both have committed greater funds than the £450,000 spread over three years that Kent has allocated. However, Mark Dance, KCC cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, says the facilities in the county are second to none.

"We do not have to build anything – all that is needed is in place and it is world-class," he said. "We are looking at the life and bioscience industries. Those are the jobs we want to attract. The US has just avoided one so-called fiscal cliff with its tax rises, but the issue hasn't gone away and will re-emerge soon.

"So we want to look to companies based in the US who want a safe place to do business. Kent is ideally placed for communications with Europe and, being part of the UK, it does not have the instability associated with the Eurozone.

"The Chancellor's Autumn Statement has helped in that respect with its reduction in corporation tax. Also a large number of the companies we want to appeal to are driven by patents – new financial legislation due in April will benefit businesses which rely on such innovations."

KCC and Locate in Kent say the development of the Discovery Park Enterprise Zone, along with the possibility of interest-free loans through the Expansion East Kent programme, give the county advantages over other areas.

Dance said it was now that Kent should establish itself on the world stage as a location for science-based excellence.

"It is the time we stepped up to the plate and became recognised as a player," he said.

"Otherwise the Government would be perfectly justified in directing any enquiries from companies wanting to come to the UK to places which are already in the game – such as Liverpool and Manchester."



WOOED: US firms could come to Kent

CLOTHING

Homeworkers are keeping it casual

CLOSE to three-quarters of people who work from home in Kent admit they regularly sit at their laptop in pyjamas or leisurewear, a study has revealed.

The research, commissioned by housebuilder Charles Church South East, found that six in 10 homeworkers have days when they only ever get dressed if they are expecting a visitor or have to go to a meeting.

Sales director Dean Markall said: "More people than ever are working from home nowadays, as we've seen in the rise in demand at our developments for rooms that can be used as a home office."

The study of 1,000 Britons who work from home revealed that 74 per cent didn't always get dressed into their usual office gear.

However, researchers also found that 71 per cent of people thought they were more productive when they worked from home than when they worked in the office and 64 per cent of people also believed they put in more hours when working at home,

Finally, 61 per cent thought they were more productive when they wore their lounge wear rather than their usual work clothes.

CONFERENCE

Fallon to speak on issues way out west

BUSINESSES have an opportunity to outline ways to boost the economic prospects of west Kent at East Malling Conference Centre on Friday.

The main speaker will be Michael Fallon, Minister of State for Business and Enterprise and MP for Sevenoaks, right. County council leader Paul Carter will also be present.



Businesses are invited to hear from and put questions to those working in economic development at a national, regional and local-government level on the measures being developed to support businesses.

The West Kent Partnership has identified transport, broadband and the rural economy as priority issues but wants to hear from businesses on these and other growth issues.

The event runs from 9.30am until 1pm at the centre in New Road, East Malling.

Further details are available by phoning 01732 523781.

EXPANSION

Data centre reaffirms its commitment to town with head office development

A HI-TECH business that hosts thousands of internet servers for companies has made a big investment in its future in the county town.

Custodian Data Centres in Maidstone has announced that it is set to expand in the year ahead.

Set up just four years ago, the data floor can house some 6,000 servers for local, national and international companies.

Building work will soon begin to provide a further 18,000 square feet of space, which will accommodate up to 43,000 servers – a seven-fold increase in its provision.

In addition, building work has now started on the Maidstone Studios site to convert the second floor into a further 35,000 sq ft of premium office space.

In preparation for the expansion, Custodian invested in its building's infrastructure during the latter part of 2012.

A new Olympian generator was recently installed to provide an extra 550kVA of backup power, along with two new additional 400kVA Riello Uninterruptible Power Supply units.

Along with additional infrastructure improvements, this represents an investment of some £400,000.



SAVED: Good data management is an increasingly important part of business

Leonard Kay, business development manager at Custodian Data Centres, said: "Companies are increasingly turning to data centres to help ensure their mission-critical IT remains online, come what may.

"We've noticed a marked increase in the number of companies seeking quotes and taking rack space here over the last year, hence the need to expand.

"Data management is becoming essential to the smooth running of any business and we can provide the infrastructure and support to help with that."

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Company expansion plans prove there really is no place like home

Manufacturer turns down incentives to leave Kent and stays loyal to workforce

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

AN aerospace manufacturing company that was offered financial incentives to leave Kent and relocate has pledged its future to the county.

MEP Ltd, based on the Forstal Estate at Aylesford, manufactures plastic and metal components and has just expanded into neighbouring premises after a long search for a suitable site, helped by economic and development agency Locate in Kent.

Its workforce of 60 will still be based in the county, with 30 new jobs planned.

"We were ready to expand in 2008, but then the banks collapsed and the economic world fell in, so we thought it wise to wait a while," said managing director Phil Hart.

"We have been very fortunate in that during the recession we have maintained growth of about 20 per cent, with the occasional small contraction before going back to 20 per cent growth."

The company said its performance resulted in a pressing need to find bigger premises heralding the start of a long and wide-ranging search.

"We looked elsewhere in Kent and were even offered financial incentives to move to areas outside the county with Regional Growth Funding," said Hart.

"However, our main issue was we have a very loyal workforce, many of whom had no wish to move away. Even moving a few miles up the road presented problems as some of the staff have no transport and we would have had to have looked into alternatives such as providing a minibus service to and from work for them."

Working with Locate in Kent, with which MEP has a long-standing relationship, the answer was eventually found right on the company's doorstep, when a neighbouring building became available.



FLYING HIGH: MEP Ltd is set to employ 30 new staff at its Aylesford factory after Locate in Kent help them find new buildings

"Our new site houses some of our manufacturing equipment and stores and means we can refurbish our original building," said Hart.

"Now we have the extra room, we aim to double our turnover and increase our staff from 60 to 90 over the next three years."

Paul Wookey, chief executive of Locate in Kent, said that retaining existing jobs was equally as important as attracting new posts.

He said: "MEP is exactly the type of business we need to be fighting hard to persuade to stay in Kent. The manufacturing sector has suffered particularly badly in recent years and yet here we have a company showing impressive and consistent growth," he said.

"To have retained those 60 jobs for Kent is good news – to know that at least 30 more will be created is the icing on the cake."



NEW PASTURES: Kent farmland is at a premium

Farmland values hit record high despite the rain – and prices are expected to rise again

THE average value of the county's farmland rose by almost 3 per cent this year to £6,214 per acre.

In 60 years prices have risen almost 11,500 per cent from just £54 per acre and are predicted to increase by about 5 per cent next year.

A fall in supply of good farms for sale together with an increased demand from private investors are two main factors in the increase.

Andrew Shirley, head of rural property research at estate agency Knight Frank, said: "The market proved resilient in 2012 and is predicted to gain further ground next year.

"Unsurprisingly, given the summer washout that badly affected harvest, all of the growth in farmland values came in the first half of the year.

"Prices remained virtually flat in the second six months.

"A fall in the supply of good farms for sale, coupled with an increase in demand, helped to keep prices stable and we expect values to increase by around 5 per cent next year.

"More land may come to the market as some highly-geared producers with one bad harvest in the barn, and another in the ground, decide to call it a day.

"However, there is unlikely to be the kind of glut that could pull back prices."

Mr Shirley added: "An increase in availability, particularly of good blocks of arable land, could actually benefit the market, with more stock for potential buyers to choose from and bid on."

Farming remains one of Kent's most important areas of business and plans have been announced to put together a representative body for the countryside sector.

Kent Rural plc will be looking to promote all aspects of rural business, from conditions, climate and soil to an expert workforce and long experience of excellence in produce and livestock.

Among those working on the project is Michael Bax, who has many years of experience of rural businesses.

"The annual turnover of the county's agricultural and horticultural business is around £500 million," he said.

"If 'Kent Rural plc' was a real plc, it would be ranked at around 60th in the FTSE 100 Index, which is quite impressive."

Bax says he is working to encourage investment in rural business by companies that had not traditionally been associated with the countryside.

These include firms working in storage, transport, water-management and packaging.

NETWORKING

Referrals are paying their way for group

THE Birchington-based networking group BNI Spitfire Thanet is boosting the local economy by putting companies in touch with one another to generate a range of opportunities.

The business group meets every Thursday morning for breakfast at Quex Barn at 6.30am, when any referrals picked up during the previous week are passed on to other BNI members to follow up.

The group says it has a wealth of ideas to battle tough economic times and since its conception in April 2011 1,638 referrals have been given, amounting to more than £428,000 between members.

Each BNI chapter is managed and run by members for members, and only allows one of each trade type to join, so ensuring maximum benefits.

The group welcomes a large range of businesses, whether PLCs or sole traders.

Member Andy Page, of PH Accountancy, said: "I am so glad that I joined in March 2012 – the amount of business I have gained from becoming a member has been fantastic."

Jonathan Howes, who runs a heating and plumbing company, said: "BNI gives me a great opportunity to obtain work where I am being personally recommended and I enjoy the contact with other like-minded businesses."

Businesses interested should contact bnispitfirethanet@yahoo.co.uk. Spitfire BNI can also be found on Twitter@BNITHANET.

TECHNOLOGY

Rural plea for better internet

THE Country Land and Business Association, which looks after the interests of the rural economy, wants a better broadband service for those living outside towns.

South East regional director Robin Edwards said: "We have long advocated a clearer Government focus on ensuring that all in rural areas have access to an affordable and effective broadband connection of at least two megabits per second [Mbps].

"There is still a huge amount to be done to ensure coverage is universal.

"We believe the Government must do more to help the countryside."

Training, courses and careers

Apprenticeships to open up new range of job opportunities

KENT students will soon get the chance to take up graduate and post-graduate level apprenticeships in law, accountancy and advanced engineering.

Skills minister Matthew Hancock revealed changes to the specification of apprenticeships standards for England.

This means level six and seven apprenticeships – equivalent to bachelors and masters degree level – are available for the first time, making vocational learning an alternative to the traditional higher education route.

He said: "In the past, apprenticeships were restricted to only some trades, and some parts of the economy. Now we are introducing apprenticeships in all types of jobs, including a new route to the professions, to ensure everyone can reach their potential.

"These new apprenticeships will help more young people to receive on-the-job training at top companies like BPP Law School, ensuring a vocational route to success in accounting, insurance, and the law."

And director of BPP professional apprenticeships, James Hammill, added: "We are committed to improving social mobility and diversity in the workplace by opening up some of the most prestigious professions and employers to school leavers as an alternative to the traditional route.

"Apprenticeships are an excellent way for employers to recruit talent early and design a structured training programme that incorporates technical learning as well as invaluable work-based skills."

Trainee plumber takes her experience to parliament

A FEMALE apprentice rubbed shoulders with leading members of the Labour Party during a major national energy conference.

Lowis Marshall, 29, from Gillingham, attended the event at the House of Commons alongside colleagues from Chatham-based Prestige Solar and Heating.

Shadow energy and climate change secretary Caroline Flint was among those to meet with mother-of-one Lowis, who is currently studying plumbing and heating at MidKent College's Medway campus.

Mrs Marshall said: "Mrs Flint seemed pleasantly surprised that I was an apprentice in that particular field, but she said it was a positive thing and encouraged me to carry on.

"She seemed very interested in my studies at MidKent College and I told her it was difficult but that I was enjoying it."

It was the latest exploit of the popular trainee.

Last month Mrs Marshall and her employer Nick Whatley helped renovate a house in Maidstone for the popular BBC One show DIY SOS.

Mr Whatley – company director of Prestige Solar and Heating – invited his apprentice to the conference to allow her to view their profession from a different angle.

"It was a great experience and a pleasure to rub shoulders with the likes of Caroline Flint," said the apprentice.

"Part of my job is installing solar panels so it was a good opportunity to see the bigger picture and learn about some of the issues affecting the industry.

"A few years ago solar energy was very popular and lots of people were having panels installed on their homes, but now things have slowed down and one of the aims of the conference was to explore how we can get solar back on the agenda."

MidKent College offers more than 20 different apprenticeship programmes ranging from traditional subjects such as plumbing and hairdressing to more modern varieties like IT and customer service.

Visit www.midkent.ac.uk to find out more about being an apprentice.

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WORKING: (from left) Lowis Marshall, Caroline Flint and Nick Whatley at the Commons

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Range of further education options leave young people with a minefield of choices

WITH university entry increasingly competitive it is now common for savvy six th form students to weigh up the benefits of different programmes of study.

A-levels continue to be the most popular passport to higher education but there is now a competing choice including the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma, the Cambridge Pre U and BTEC Nationals, said a leading Medway academic.

While A-level students take three or four subjects, IB students take six and also have to complete a 5,000 word essay and a programme of community and service work.

Students at Rochester Independent College (RIC) find that A-levels remain the most consistently reliable route to university entry. This is also valued as an opportunity to be able to focus on students' strengths rather, than being compelled to study subjects they would rather have stopped at GCSE.

Millie Harris started an IB at a Tonbridge grammar but switched to RIC for A-levels.

She said: "Once I'd decided I wanted to be a doctor it made more sense to concentrate on the maths and sciences I'd need."

For university courses such as medicine or engineering the specialisation of A-levels is arguably a better preparation, said Alistair Brownlow, the college principal.

He added that a 2012 Ofqual report, while praising the diploma for the range of skills it fosters, concluded that its standard level maths was below A-level standard and that its higher level maths was less demanding than A-level further maths.

Whatever the educational and cultural benefits of the diploma, it is often the case that universities require higher IB scores than a comparative A-level offer for the same course and that offers are therefore harder to meet.

Mr Brownlow said the standard offer for dentistry at Bristol for example is AAA at A-level (360 UCAS points), while for IB it is 37 (545 UCAS points).

For English at Warwick the required IB score is 38 (567 UCAS points) but again AAA at A-level.

The academic playing field looks far from equal.



First **GEAR**
MOTORING NEWS

- Ford 'couriers' favour with its new Fiesta van
- Citroën sees red with special edition DS3s
- Suzuki rises to Dacia challenge with city car



Who's in the running to be crowned Europe's car of the year?

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



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Best rival: Vauxhall Astra

Bad news for rivals as VW tees up another winning Golf drive

IT'S just got tougher for VW Golf rivals. The German star has long been the family hatchback to beat, with its blend of driving pleasure, quality, practicality and mainstream/premium image.

No wonder many rival car-makers admit benchmarking their contenders against the Vee-dub, only for the 'champ' to raise the bar again with a new-generation model.

This time it's the Golf Mark VII – a revolution compared with the evolution from Mark V to VI.

A sharply-sculpted yet subtle rework of the classic Golf profile disguises a root-and-branch remaking; VW people use the word 'forensic' to describe how each component was re-examined and redesigned from the ground up – virtually nothing of the old car's structure remains.

The Mark VII is stronger, longer, wider and roomier, with a 30-litre increase in boot space to 380 litres, yet the new car is also up to 100 kilos lighter, safer, more aerodynamic and 23 per cent more fuel-efficient – the old car was no slouch there, either.

But there's more to this obsessive reconstruction: the Golf uses the VW Audi Group's new MQB approach to car-making, which means radical standardisation to deliver huge competitive benefits to a family of brands also including Skoda and Seat.

So refined is the MQB system that, theoretically, one production line could churn out umpteen different models from group brands; this might even boggle the mind of mass production pioneer Henry Ford.

This may be of no interest to Golf fans, though, who will simply want more of what they know and like – and a bit better, thanks – which VW has delivered by shortening the production life of each successive Golf generation before moving to the next. The original 1974-vintage Golf ran for nine years; the new car has ousted its predecessor after just four.

Rivals will surely mount their own forensic examination of the new car, finding the keen handling just a bit sharper – there wasn't much to tweak there without mucking up the tidy ride quality – and a cabin with a bit more flair and warmth, plus all that extra room.

They will also note that the range is cheaper than before (from £16,285) and comes with more kit, particularly generous for mid-range SE models (from £18,990) and including an array of additional safety systems.

An all-new engine range gets stop-start as standard and, while the 1.6 and 2.0-litre diesels are as willing and frugal as ever, I particularly liked the innovative 138bhp 1.4-litre turbocharged petrol unit.

Powerful, free-revving and quiet, it's also economical thanks to Active Cylinder Technology – driving without a leaden right foot encourages two of the four cylinders to shut down when cruising. You don't need forensics to work out the benefits there.





DON'T LIKE

... based on a few hours' driving different versions, there is nothing obvious to dislike about this latest Golf. An in-depth road test now beckons...

NOT SURE

... the Golf can sustain its semi-premium pricing when the Koreans and Toyota, particularly, offer good specs and better warranties for less.

REALLY LIKE

... the incremental improvement of the Golf. Each generation is better, but not so much so that it poleaxes used values of the previous car.

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MOTORING

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Leaf drops off in cold weather

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

GOING electric is motoring's dream of the future, but it's a neurotic's worst nightmare at present.

We are talking 'range anxiety' – fear that the batteries in your electric car will go flat before you reach your destination and need at least 30 minutes' charging, not to mention the availability of a special plug-in point to enable the journey to continue.

If you can't find such a point, then a standard 13-amp socket needs several hours to get a sensible amount of juice back into the batteries.

It's no wonder, then, that even keen environmentalists stick with the 'infernal' combustion engine's ability to refuel in minutes at a handy filling station.

And, let's remember, a road-tax-exempt low-CO_2 emission and consumption eco-diesel is a green beast compared with its equivalent just 10 years ago.

There is also a halfway house... the hybrid.

All of which is a shame because, after a week's use of a Nissan Leaf – Europe's Car of the Year 2011 – I can see that electric cars have virtues if you look beyond the range and a hefty upfront price; the Leaf costs a ridiculous £30,990, though the Government then eases your blood pressure with a £5,000 grant.

For a start, forget the glacially-slow milk-float image evoked so hilariously in that classic Father Ted TV series spoof on the movie Speed.

The Leaf's accelerator delivers instant pulling power and, while the 80kw electric motor is equivalent to 108bhp, Nissan says its maximum pulling power or torque matches a 2.5-litre V6 petrol engine of twice the bhp.

That's not obvious on paper as the Leaf's 0-62mph is a modest 11.9 seconds, but it's the rapid take-off in the 0-30mph zone that impresses – ideal for the urban cut and thrust that is the car's forte. Unfortunately, over-indulgence here or lengthy motorway cruising leaves a battery-draining hangover, exacerbated in my case by a cold snap during the test week.

As with any battery, low temperatures nobble the car's power residue, so, having got into the Leaf one day and checked my range by selecting normal 'Drive' mode and then boosting that up by another 10 or so through slotting into 'Eco' mode, I drove two miles in -2ºC conditions and saw six miles lopped off my range.

It's a worry and, like a badly shot-up wartime pilot, you start switching off non-essentials like the radio and fan so as to boost the range and nurse your ailing kite back to Blighty.

But at least the Leaf won't stress you in other ways. Driving electric is like a mood CD of whale noises; the roomy full five-seat cabin is tranquil and relaxing, with no engine noise and only a whisper from the tyres and air passing over the Leaf's slippery bodywork.

Don't worry, range anxiety won't let you nod off. It also handles well, presumably because the hefty weight of powertrain and batteries is low down, comes 'fully loaded' with equipment – it should do at the price – and costs peanuts to run with negligible electricity costs, exemption from road tax, plus low maintenance due to few moving parts.

That said, the Leaf is not the most elegant of cars and the cabin might be well constructed but is pretty dull even if the dashboard lights up like a Mars mission spacecraft.

It lacks the wow factor of the Vauxhall Ampera/Chevrolet Volt hybrid, for instance.

And while you amble along in your eco Leaf trying not to suffer range anxiety, don't even think about what emissions were generated, and where, to supply the 'clean' power for your last recharge.

NISSAN LEAF: PRICE £25,990 (AFTER GRANT)



NEW POWER GENERATION: Nissan's Leaf ticks many boxes for the driver looking to go electric but there is still the worry that this form of transport may let you down when you least expect it

FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Road tax:	Zero
Best rival:	Vauxhall Ampera

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Eco Fiesta for the trade user

FORD has slashed running costs in the small courier van sector with a new Fiesta van in which all diesel versions deliver road-tax-exempt emissions and up to 85.6mpg on the combined cycle.

A Ford spokesman said: "Local tradesmen and urban delivery fleets will appreciate its sharp, professional looks while relying on its versatility, dependability and exceptionally low running costs."



Citroën seeing red over rivals

PERHAPS mindful that Vauxhall is launching its new Adam city car for the image-conscious, Citroën has unveiled Red special editions of its DS3 style warrior, from £15,655 in white or black.

They are based on the DS3's existing DStyle and DSport trim, with exclusive 'Sport Red' touches to the exterior, matching red dashboard and door handle surrounds, plus extra standard equipment.



Suzuki drives good bargain

ROMANIA'S Dacia brand makes its debut shortly with what will become the UK's cheapest conventional car – the £5,995 Sandero supermini.

But current value champion Suzuki isn't throwing in the towel just yet. It vows to continue its VAT-free offers on all Alto city car models until the end of March, meaning customers will pay just £5,999 on the SZ entry model.

MOTORING

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IN THE RUNNING: From left, Toyota's GT86 is Steve Loader's favourite, but could it be too retro to take top spot? The Hyundai i30 has a shot at taking the title, but the Peugeot 208 could be the one to watch.

Eight to debate in car of the year awards

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AWARDS ceremonies are big business, with top magazines and websites stoking interest by debating the pros and cons of a year's latest models.

But European Car of the Year (Coty) is the daddy, founded in 1964 when the legendary Rover 2000 took the inaugural laurels.

Since then, this event involving key motoring magazines and journalists across Europe has short-listed and then chosen a final first, second and third – not always to universal acclaim.

Fiat has notched an astonishing nine wins, which we wouldn't argue with, though we dispute Renault's six victories when German engineering excellence has so often been ignored.

Still, at least cars from outside Europe are now being recognised for their qualities and innovation, which brings us to 2013's eight finalists and Driving's comments:

- Ford B-Max: an innovative small MPV with sliding rear doors but no centre pillar, thereby allowing unobstructed access to the cabin. This unique quality might be enough to win – Ford is the third most successful Coty brand, lifting the top prize five times before.
- Hyundai i30: no Korean car has won Coty and, with rapid advances made by that nation's manufacturers, this must change soon even if the i30 fails. It's a great family hatchback but a tilt at the market-leading VW Golf rather than something innovative.
- Mercedes Benz A-Class: a premium hatchback that shows M-B being brave, ditching the old A-Class mini-MPV format for something sporty and smart to attack the BMW 1 Series and Audi A3. It's also a travesty that, having pioneered so much, M-B has won Coty just once (S-Class 1974).
- Peugeot 208: amazingly, the brilliant 205 was pipped to Coty in 1984 by another supermini, the Fiat Uno. The classy and well-built 208 could surpass its illustrious forebear, but...
- Renault Clio: if the judges are thinking 'supermini', then the Peugeot faces tough opposition from the fourth-generation Clio, a model that has already secured wins for Renault in 1991 and 2006.
- Toyota GT86/Subaru BRZ: this Toyota-designed/Subaru-powered coupé is easily driver's car of the year and would be our winner, but a retro body and rear-wheel-drive make it old school in an era when an electric car (Nissan Leaf) and hybrid (Vauxhall Ampera/Chevrolet Volt) have been Coty in 2011 and 2012 respectively.
- Volkswagen Golf: brilliant, as argued earlier in this section, but does generation seven push the envelope enough this time? Victory would be recompense, though, for VW's unfairly low tally of two previous wins.
- Volvo V40: Volvo has never won Coty, surprisingly considering the Swedish marque's work on safety, economy and emissions, but the V40 deserves to right this wrong. It's a stylish, economical and practical premium hatchback alternative to German rivals.

Our tip for the final three: Toyota GT86/Subaru BRZ, Volvo V40 and Ford B-Max.

The final verdict is on Monday, March 4, coinciding with the Geneva Motor Show.

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Available on selected models only, at participating retailers, exclusions apply. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk/offersor contact your local Vauxhall Retailer for details. 24-60 month term, excluding ADAM models (24-48 month term). Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Vauxhall Motor Finance RH1 1SR or Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Offer will apply to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B supported units). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 2nd April 2013. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. †Corsa Limited Edition £2,800 customer deposit (after deduction of Vauxhall contribution) followed by 60 monthly payments of £185. *Astra GTC Sport £5,500 customer deposit (after deduction of Vauxhall contribution) followed by 60 monthly payments of£209. Model shown has 19 inch alloy wheels available at an extra cost. ^Corsa SXi £2,780 customer deposit followed by 60 monthly payments of £179. ‡First year insurance offer available on Corsa SXi models only. The offer will cover the full premium for drivers aged between 21 -75 (motor policy only).Drivers must have held a valid full UK license for a minimum of 2 years. Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. Policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd. Other terms and conditions apply.

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Abbey Court School

"We grow people"

"An outstanding school"
(Ofsted July 2010 & October 2012)

We are currently looking for a....

TEACHING ASSISTANT

to join and enhance our large and expanding, high calibre team.

Medway Scale, Grade D2

£15,039 - £19,126 pro-rata + SEN Allowance (£1,177)

Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic?

Can you make a difference?

If so, share your talents and expertise with us.

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. Working hours are 32.5 p/w (8.45am - 3.45pm), term time only. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

Only those with childcare experience, or relevant childcare qualifications should apply.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):

Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338236)

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Closing date: 18.1.13

Abbey Court School

"We grow people"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a....

Physiotherapist

to join and enhance our high calibre team

Medway Scale B2 to A-point 32 to 46 (£27,052 to £38,961)

(full time-term time only-pro rata)

Abbey Court School is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Physiotherapist, with a professional and flexible approach. In essence, somebody with an interest in an educational setting who would like to work in a school committed to enabling pupils to reach their full potential. The postholder will be offered the opportunity to express their creativity, work holistically and demonstrate their strengths whilst undertaking a wide variety of tasks within the post.

Working hours are 37 hours p/w, term time only. The successful candidate will work as part of a larger therapy team, alongside Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist, Music and Art Therapists. Candidates should hold a relevant Physiotherapy qualification. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development. Visits to the school are welcomed. Salary is negotiable between top and bottom scales.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 25.1.13

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CVs will not be accepted.

ACORN GROUP

RESIDENTIAL • EDUCATION • OUTREACH

Acorn Group provides an extensive range of specialist services throughout the South of England, including Residential Sports and Activities Children's Homes, Semi-Independent Living, Fostering Service and Education via our own DfE registered school.

We are currently seeking to recruit new team members who share our ethos of promoting the development of personal, social and academic skills alongside a sense of team spirit; where Children and Young people are enabled to positively channel frustration and negative experiences through sports and other energising activities. Due to rapid expansion, we are currently recruiting:

Registered Home Managers - £28,000 - £32,000 per annum
To maintain the smooth running of the home by promoting a harmonious culture co-ordinating, supervising, and facilitating the team in delivering high standards of care. Providing protection and support to the children and young people by facilitating their physical, psychological, emotional and social development.
Level 4 NVQ / Diploma 5 in the Caring for Children and Young People / RMA Award required and experience essential.

Team Leaders - £18,720 per annum
A team leader is responsible for the supervision of a team of support staff to ensure that young people receive a person specific individualised service of care.
Knowledge of Management theories, Child related / social care qualification with a minimum Level of NVQ level 3 in the Caring for Children and Young People preferred.

Maths and Science Teacher - £20,000 - £24,000 per annum
To plan and prepare courses and lessons for SEN students; to teach the Curriculum with regard and thought to the educational needs of the students. Previous experience and Maths to a minimum of A-level standard is essential.

Interested candidates should apply before 1st February 2013 by downloading an application form from our website at www.acornhomes.eu or requesting an application form from Human Resources on hr@acornhomes.eu or 01843- 482510. Please note CVs will not be accepted.

Successful candidates will be required to undertake an enhanced CRB check.

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Part time Art Lecturer Required

Salary: £29,618 - £30,118 (dependant on qualification) pro rata
Location: Medway

MidKent College is looking to employ a 0.5 fixed term temporary Art lecturer to teach within a developing and growing department. You will be required to teach level 2 and 3 students with a range of abilities and needs within fine art or Graphic Design. An industry background is preferable with a degree in an art subject area and a teaching qualification is essential. The ideal candidate should be innovative and wanting to be part of a developing creative team.

Closing date: 16/01/2013

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

MidKent College

project Salus

Integrated Youth Officer

Maidstone (Shepway Youth Centre)

(Salary: £23,054 – £26,421 pro rata)

0.5fte to be worked mainly evenings and weekends

Project Salus is a social enterprise established to deliver the services previously undertaken by Kent Safe Schools. We have recently been commissioned to deliver Youth Services in South East Urban Maidstone including the Shepway Youth Centre.

We are currently seeking an Integrated Youth Officer to implement our range of centre and street-based youth services in Maidstone. The role will involve working directly with young people and agencies, offering services and support with an aim to improve young people's emotional health and well-being.

We are looking for a talented individual, experienced in working directly with young people in creative and innovative ways to achieve the best possible outcomes. This post will require energy and enthusiasm to ensure the success of this highly valued service.

For more information please contact Peter Heckel on 07725595519

For an application pack please contact Katie Ling on 01303 817470 or at Katie.ling@projectsalus.co.uk

Closing Date: Monday 28th January at 5pm
Interviews will be held on the Thursday 7th February

Working For Wildlife

Reliable people required

to recruit members on behalf of the Woodland Trust at pre-booked venues and organised events.

This is an extremely rewarding opportunity with high earning potential.

Applicants will receive full training and support.

Your own transport is essential.

Apply in writing to:
ian@working4wildlife.org

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To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817056

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Head of Faculty – Advanced & Professional Studies APS (Maternity Cover)

Salary – Circa £47,000
Location – Medway Campus

MidKent College is a large and successful College operating on two main campuses serving Medway and Maidstone. The College was graded 'good' overall with 'outstanding' Capacity to Improve at its last Ofsted inspection. Since then, success rates have continued to rise and the College achieved its best ever results in 2012. The College benefits from having outstanding financial strength.

An opportunity has arisen through a maternity vacancy for the appointment to Head of Faculty for Advanced & Professional Studies (APS). Based at our new Medway Campus in Gillingham, with state-of-the-art facilities, the Faculty includes the A Level, Access, Business, Science and Animal Care curriculum areas.

The ideal candidate will be a dynamic, progressive and enthusiastic individual with demonstrable leadership capability. They will have a strong track record in improving student outcomes, preferably within these curriculum areas.

This position is for an initial period of up to 12 months but there is likely to be further opportunities for an exceptional candidate.

Benefits Include:

Benenden Healthcare
Generous Pension Scheme and Annual Leave
Flexible working

To apply please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application form.

Closing date 17th January 2013

Human Resources Assistant

Salary: Circa £15,000

We are looking to recruit a conscientious, enthusiastic and customer focused HR Assistant to join our team.

Your main responsibilities will include supporting and managing the different stages of the recruitment process, such as arranging interviews, liaising with candidates and drafting contracts of employment. You will also support the HR team in maintaining data and running reports from the HR system therefore a good working knowledge of Excel would be advantageous.

This role will provide the successful candidate with an exciting opportunity to get involved with interesting projects and develop their HR experience.

To apply please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application form.

Closing date 18th January 2013

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

MidKent College

Abbey Court School

"We grow people"

Following a second successive 'outstanding' Ofsted inspection, Abbey Court School would like to offer an exciting new opportunity.

We are currently looking for….

Two teachers to teach P.E. to pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties to commence April 2013

MPS/UPS + SEN + TLR 2C £2,535 (TLR with previous experience)

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit specialist P.E. teachers and would include delivery of swimming lessons in the school hydrotherapy pool. Previous knowledge of SEN teaching preferable. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided.

Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing date: 18th January 2013

Interview date: 12th February 2013

For further details and a job description, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.



The future of local media
Be a part of an exciting and growing team developing our portfolio across Kent
Kent on Saturday Kent on Sunday Tunbridge Wells
Your Medway Your Swale yourashford yourcanterbury
yourdover yourmaidstone yourshepway yourthanet

News reporters - Trainees

Permanent role, based in Smeeth, near Ashford.

A GOLDEN opportunity has arisen to join our hard-working news team across our range of titles, including Kent on Sunday and our websites.

We are seeking someone with a determined desire to shine and develop into a valued member of our news - gathering team, with an appetite for getting the very best stories and an ability to come up with non-stop ideas in this highly competitive industry.

The right candidate will be able to turn around crisp, informative and entertaining copy on everything from hard-hitting crime stories to in-depth features.

We'll provide all the support and encouragement to develop your talents. You'll need to be able to perform under pressure, prioritise workloads, be an excellent communicator both verbally and with the written word, and be a team player.

We would expect you to have your NCTJ preliminary certificate, have undertaken work experience placements and be hungry to prove yourself.

These opportunities don't come around often. In exchange, we offer a competitive salary, pension scheme, five weeks' annual leave and a host of other voluntary benefits. You will be based in our office in Smeeth. It is essential you have a car and hold a full driver's licence.

To apply for the above position please apply online at www.archant.co.uk and click on vacancies

Abbey Court School

"We grow people"

Following the retirement of the current postholder, the Governors at Abbey Court School are seeking to appoint a…

Deputy Headteacher

L18 - L22 (£56,950 to £62,811)

We are looking for a dynamic and forward thinking individual, who has the passion, commitment and drive to maintain the school's outstanding status. The ideal candidate will be somebody who can enthuse parents and staff, as well as having an ability to engage the wider community. The successful candidate will work in partnership with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher, and will have responsibility for the day to day running of one site, ensuring continuous improvement in all areas.

In return, the school can offer: happy children who respond well to challenge, an exciting, enquiry based approach to teaching and learning, a commitment to continuous professional development, which promotes and encourages further Leadership development and freedom to develop the role further.

Abbey Court School delivers a full curriculum to pupils with Severe, and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties between the ages of 3 to 19. The school is split and based at two sites 12 miles apart: (Nursery/Primary in Rainham and Secondary/F.E. in Strood), and is located in pleasant surroundings with educational resources of enviable proportions.

Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school are warmly welcomed

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 25.1.13
Interviews: 14/15.2.13

For further details and a job description, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236)

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Lauriem

Earn from £500 per week as a member of our live-in-care team.

Lauriem LLP are recruiting now for experienced carers to join their established live in care team. Applicants must be able to commit to supporting adults on a live in care basis within Kent.

Reliability and a caring approach are vital attributes for these positions. The work flexibility to spend a minimum of a full week, or longer, living with and caring for our clients within their own homes is necessary to secure these ongoing and sought after positions.

Previous care experience is essential. Lauriem do provide training for all successful applicants to refresh and update their care skills.

Ideally applicants will be aged over 25, hold a full driving licence, and most importantly, be committed to and able to demonstrate a desire to deliver outstanding care services.

For further information and an application form please contact; 01843 482483 and ask for Amanda Parker or Chris Quantock or e mail; Amanda.Parker@lauriem.co.uk

Please note appointments to these positions are subject to interviews, satisfactory references and enhanced CRB checks.

To advertise in this section
01303 817056

Home Worker - Kent

ARCHANT LIFE

An opportunity has arisen to join Archant Life part of Archant Community Media Ltd, the UK's largest independently owned media business.

Based in Kent working out of your home office you will need to be presentable, self motivated sales professional. You will be responsible for selling advertising solutions for our Kent Life magazine. This is an opportunity for an experienced salesperson to develop their career in a competitive market across a multi-platform portfolio.

For this varied role you will need to work efficiently under pressure, prioritise your workload depending on deadlines and be able to demonstrate sales experience in a competitive market. Good communication skills are essential, whether by telephone, face-to-face or in written form.

In return we offer a very competitive package which includes a generous uncapped commission scheme. The exceptional benefits include 5 weeks annual leave and a contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period). A wide range of voluntary benefits include a cycle scheme, childcare vouchers, Westfield Health Scheme and Archant Gold (charity matched funding).

To apply for the above position please apply online at **www.archant.co.uk** and click on vacancies.

LEAY

Leay Limited, a leader in supply and installation of curtain walling, aluminium windows and doors.

Based in Aylesford, Kent.

Estimator Required

Knowledge of the construction industry is desirable. Strong IT skills in Microsoft Word and Excel required.

Please forward your CV to **enquires@leay.com**

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PLANNING

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY)

(FOLKESTONE TOWN CENTRE AND THE BAYLE PARKING ZONE) ORDER 2012 (AMENDMENT NO 1) (THE LEAS PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes the above Order under Sections 1, 2, 32, 44, 45 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order proposes to implement new parking restrictions in the following streets:

ROADS IN FOLKESTONE

The Leas; shared use residents parking and pay and display on its south east side, from a point 9.5 metres north east of its junction with Shakespeare Terrace north east for a distance of 124 metres

The Leas; prohibition of waiting at any time on its north west side from its junction with Cheriton place to its junction with Shakespeare Terrace

The Leas; bus parking place on its south west side from a point 17.5 metres south west of its junction with Shakespeare Terrace, south west for a distance of 15 metres

A copy of the proposed Order, a copy of any Orders which may be affected by it, and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing the Order can be inspected at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

If you have any views about the proposed Order you should make them in writing to (Zone A), Parking Services, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY. Or email TRO.Consultation@shepway.gov.uk stating "Zone A" in the subject title.

We must receive any representations before 5pm on Monday 4th February 2013 for them to be considered. For legal reasons we cannot accept representations over the phone or in person.

If you have any questions concerning the Order or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Transportation Department), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853240 during normal office hours).

This notice is published by Shepway District Council on behalf of Kent Highway Services, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX. Kent Highway Services is part of Kent County Council.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/1139/SH#* - Walnut Tree Cottage Rye Road Brookland Romney Marsh Kent - Erection of a detached dwelling (resubmission of Y12/0479/SH).

Y12/1089/SH+ - The Cottage and Old Castle Stores The Street Lympne Hythe Kent - Erection of two rear conservatories.

Y12/1148/SH - 8 - 9 Marine Parade Folkestone Kent CT20 1PX - Listed building consent for internal and external works to convert the existing hotel into 12 self-contained flats.

Y12/1007/SH - 8 - 9 Marine Parade Folkestone Kent CT20 1PX - Change of use and conversion of hotel into 12 self contained flats, including external alterations.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

\# - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 28 JANUARY 2013.

SW/12/1409:
Change of use to use as demonstration gardens with incidental buildings and associated parking - Brogdale Collections, Brogdale Farm, Brogdale Road, OSPRINGE; **REASONS 2, 3 & 6**.

SW/12/1451:
Installation of roller shutter - 5 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 1**.

SW/12/1478:
Advertisement consent for the change of shop sign, installation of 5No. signs lights and installation of two hanging signs - 5 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 1**.

SW/12/1523 &
SW/12/1524:
Single storey rear extension & internal alterations to grade II listed warehouse building with change of use to restaurant & art gallery/function room - Building 1, Standard Quay, Abbey Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1, 2 & 6**.

SW/12/1542:
Retention of hardstanding - Land at Cleve Hill Farm, Cleve Hill Lane, GRAVENEY; **REASON 6**.

SW/12/1544 &
SW/12/1545:
Demolition of single storey extension, front conservatory/porch and three garages. Construction of single storey extension to match existing - Little Lodge, Church Lane, DODDINGTON; **REASON 1 & 2**.

SW/12/1558:
Change of use/conversion of agricultural building to residential use (Class C3) - Kentish Barn, Mutton Lane/Vicarage Lane, OSPRINGE; **REASONS 1 & 2**.

SW/12/1568:
Proposed change of use from office to residential four bedroom house - 4 Trinity Road, SHEERNESS; **REASON 1**.

SW/12/1579:
The conversion of the existing ground floor amusement centre into a Pizza Takeaway (A5 use) including the provision of a ventilation duct to the rear elevation - 28/29 Preston Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1 & 6**.

SW/12/1585:
Change of use and conversion of barn to four no. B1 (a,b & c)/B8 units with associated parking - Cleve Hill Farm, Cleve Hill, GRAVENEY; **REASON 3**.

SW/12/1586:
Change of use of No. 16 West Street, previously in use Class A4 as 'The Jolly Sailor' to an new C3 dwelling house - Jolly Sailor, 16 West Street, SHEERNESS; **REASONS 1 & 2**.

SW/12/1591:
Amendment to current Listed Building Approval SW/12/0121 to incorporate removal of existing chimney stack to rear of existing building - Former Garden Hotel, 169 The Street, BOUGHTON; **REASONS 1 & 2**.

SW/12/1594:
Proposed change of use of public house to hotel (C1) and erection of single storey side and two storey rear extension to provide bathrooms and toilets together with parking provision and disabled access - Prince of Waterloo, 428 Minster Road, MINSTER; **REASON 2**.

SW/12/1597:
Proposed side extension to existing foodstore with additional works including new shopfront, rendered walls and car park changes - Aldi Foodstore Ltd, Millennium Way, SHEERNESS; **REASON 3**.

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

To advertise in this section
01303 817056

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/02126/FUL: 28 The Grove, Barham, CT4 6PP Two-storey rear extension. **Applicant: Mr Aljumily** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02140/FUL: Land at Rhodaus Town, Canterbury Erection of student accommodation comprising 432 bedrooms.
Applicant: Peugeot Motor Company plc/Petros Canterbury Ltd Reason: Major and conservation area.
CA//12/02211/FUL: 199 Cromwell Road, Whitstable, CT5 1NE Proposed two-storey side extension. **Applicant: Mrs W Wilson** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02215/FUL: Tirril, Church Lane, Barham, CT4 6PB Single-storey extension to front of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr B Gibbs** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02223/FUL: Colemans Cottage, Highland Court Farm, Coldharbour Lane, Bekesbourne, CT4 5HW Erection of B1/B8 development with associated yards, external storage, lighting, CCTV, car parking and wash down area **Applicant: Invicta Properties Limited** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/02227/FUL: 2 St George's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2SR Provision of a lift shaft extension at roof level
Applicant: Whitefriars Canterbury Unit Trust Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02232/FUL: Tower House, Westgate Gardens, Canterbury, CT1 2DB Single-storey kitchen and orangery extension.
Applicant: Canterbury City Council Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/02236/LB: Tower House, Westgate Gardens, Canterbury, CT1 2DB Single-storey kitchen and orangery extension.
Applicant: Canterbury City Council Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/02240/FUL: 4 Grasmere Road, Chestfield, CT5 3LX Single-storey and two-storey extensions to side and rear of dwelling.
Applicant: Mr K and Mrs T Buchan Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02245/FUL: New Place Farm, Wingham Lane, Ickham, CT3 1RA Retention of polytunnels with removal of condition 2 of planning permission CA/09/01411/FUL to allow the block of tunnels on the inside of the School Lane bend to remain in situ. **Applicant: FW Mansfield & Son** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02248/FUL: Walnut Tree Cottage, Church Street, Whitstable, CT5 1PH Erection of single-storey extension. **Applicant: Ms L Clifford** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/02252/FUL: Ford Manor Farm Oast, Ford Hill, Hoath, CT3 4LS Conversion of oast house to residential use (re-submission of CA/12/01568/FUL). **Applicant: J E Batchelor & Partners** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/02253/FUL: 29-30 Watling Street, Canterbury, CT1 2UD Change of use from assumed B1 to D1 non residential educational use.
Applicant: Concorde International Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02258/FUL: St John Ambulance, St Marys Court, Church Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2PP Redevelopment of St John's Hall to accommodate three x 2,5 storey town houses with integral garages and a three storey block accommodating six x one bedroom apartments.
Applicant: St John's Amubulance Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02259/FUL: Land rear of 3-7 Borstal Hill, Whitstable, CT5 4LX Erection of detached dwelling and garden/cycle store.
Applicant: Mr P Relton Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/02260/FUL: Land at, Bartlett Drive, Whitstable Erection of detached two bedroom bungalow with associated parking and bike store.
Applicant: Mr Pettman Reason: Contrary to the development plan.
CA//12/02261/FUL: Mount Pleasant, Seasalter Lane, Seasalter, Whitstable, CT5 4BT Side and rear extension to existing dwelling and erection of detached garage. **Applicant: Mr Roberts** Reason: Site notice only
CA//12/02262/LB: 20 Sun Street, Canterbury, CT1 2HX Proposed roof to courtyard. **Applicant: Mr H Hossaini** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/02265/FUL: 58 Oaks Park, Rough Common, Harbledown, CT2 9DP Two-storey side extension **Applicant: Mr C Ashcroft** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02266/FUL: 36 High Street, Littlebourne, CT3 1ST Replace timber windows with UPVC to front of property.
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Nicholls Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02267/FUL: 20 Sun Street, Canterbury, CT1 2HX Proposed roof to courtyard. **Applicant: Mr H Hossaini** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/02268/CAC: St John Ambulance, St Marys Court, Church Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2PP Demolition of existing building in connection with the redevelopment of St John's Hall to accommodate three x 2,5 storey town houses with integral garages and a three storey block accommodating six x one bedroom apartments. **Applicant: St John's Amubulance** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//12/02269/TPO: Robert Brett House, Milton Manor Farm, Ashford Road, Thannington Work to trees subject of TPO No 4 of 1959.
Applicant: Robert Brett & Sons Ltd Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
CA//12/02276/LB: Ford Manor Farm Oast, Ford Hill, Hoath, CT3 4LS Conversion of oast house to residential use (re-submission of CA/12/01729/LB). **Applicant: J E Batchelor & Partners** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//13/00004/FUL: 85 St Peter's Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2BP Single storey rear extension. **Applicant: Mr Lewis** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00005/FUL: 32 Warwick Road, Whitstable, CT5 1HX Installation of roof lights to front and rear of roof structure **Applicant: Mrs Clarke** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00011/FUL: 51 Chestfield Road, Chestfield, CT5 3LD Proposed rear extension. **Applicant: Mr Wickings** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 4 February 2013.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 11 January 2013

To place you notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817056

PLANNING

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council

SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY (OFF STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2010 (AMENDMENT NO 4) ORDER 2013

The Shepway District Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Council") in exercise of their powers under section 35C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State (The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders) (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 and of all other enabling powers hereby gives notice that the charges to be paid in connection with hourly tariffs and season tickets at off-street parking places will, on 4th February 2013 be varied as follows -

Charges apply 8am - 6pm unless otherwise indicated			
	Details of the charges on the date this notice is given		Details of the charges that are to be payable when the notice comes into force on 04/02/2013
SHORT TERM			
Upper Payers Park Shellons Street Foresters Way Pleydell Gardens	Linear charging at £1.00 per hour Minimum payment £0.50 (30 minutes) Maximum payment £3.00 (3 hours)		No changes
Mount Street	Up to 30 min Up to 1 hour Up to 2 hours	80p £1.20 £2.30	No changes
Church Road West Street	Up to 1 hour Up to 2 hours Up to 3 hours	80p £2.30 £3.40	No changes
LONG TERM			
Harbourside Tram Road	Linear charging at £1.00 per hour Minimum payment £1.00 (1 hour) Maximum payment £6.00 (all day)		No changes
The Leas Cliff Hall	Linear charging at £1.00 per hour Minimum payment £1.00 (1 hour) Maximum payment £6.00 (all day)		Up to 4 hours £1.00 Up to 5 hours £2.00 All day £3.00
Castle Road Battery Point Sea Point Twiss Point The Paddocks Military Road Dymchurch Central Martello High Knocke Coast Drive Jolly Fisherman Lower Sandgate Road	Up to 1 hour Up to 2 hours Up to 3 hours Up to 4 hours Up to 5 hours Up to 6 hours All Day	£1.20 £2.30 £3.40 £4.50 £5.70 £6.70 £7.90	No changes No changes

A copy of the Notice of Tariff Changes may be inspected at the District Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Notice or of any of its provisions on the ground that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that a requirement of any such enabling Act or of any relevant regulations made there under has not been complied with may, within 6 weeks from the date on which the Notice was published, make application for the purpose to the High Court.

If you have any questions concerning the Notice or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Parking Services), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853000) during normal office hours.

A. Lague, Highways Engineer
On behalf of B. Porter, Head of Communities
Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY

13th January 2013

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/1855/S - GREEN ACRES, WAGON LANE, PADDOCK WOOD, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 6PT - Retrospective application for the change of use of the land from agricultural to residential for gypsy and traveller accommodation, with the stationing of 6 static caravans, 6 touring caravans and associated hardsurfacing and access track. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/1895/S - WOLSEY BARN, CLAYGATE ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6BD - Conversion of barn to residential use. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/2116/S - MOUNTAIN FARMHOUSE, MARDEN ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9PZ - Erection of two storey side extension. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/2150/N - LEADING CROSS GREEN FARM, HEADCORN ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2HS - Retrospective application for removal of condition 5 of MA/01/1861 (erection of detached garage) to allow conversion of ground floor of garage into additional living accommodation ancillary to the main dwelling as shown on details received 27/11/12 and 13/12/12. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/2175/N - THE MALTHOUSE, UPPER STREET, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1UW - Replacement of doors to garage. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/2178/S - KENT FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE HQ, THE GODLANDS, STRAW MILL HILL, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6XB - Erection of a single storey office building involving the demolition of 3 single storey buildings. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/2183/S - LAND ADJOINING HATCHGATE FARM, MILL LANE, YALDING, KENT - Part retrospective and part proposed application for erection of polythene tunnels and associated works. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/2257/N - PAUL SANDBY COURT TURKEY MILL BUSINESS PARK, ASHFORD ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5PP - An application for a new planning permission to replace extant permission MA/10/0283 (Proposed Office development, installation of new river crossing, associated car parking and landscaping/river corridor enhancement) in order to extend the time limit for implementation. **Reason: 1, 6**

MA/12/2260/N - MOATENDEN PRIORY, MAIDSTONE ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9PT - Listed Building Consent for erection of a single storey extension; alterations to fenestration including insertion new windows; reinstatement of south gable to main roof; restoration of close-studding/plaster panelling to three side roofs; and internal alterations, including refurbishment of attic to form habitable accommodation, removal of non-original 19th century staircase, formation of new stairwell and insertion of new staircase, and alterations to chimney stack, including removal of section at first floor level and attachment of doors at ground floor level to enable conversion to larder. **Reason: 3**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **27th January 2013**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 13th January 2013

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

Swale Borough Council (St. Pauls Dockyard Church) Compulsory Purchase Order 2012
The Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the Acquisition of land Act 1981

1. Notice is hereby given that Swale Borough Council (hereinafter called "the Council") in exercise of the powers of the confirming authority under the above Acts on 3 January 2013 confirmed the Swale Borough Council (St Pauls Dockyard Church) Compulsory Purchase Order 2012 made by it. No objections to the order were received within the permitted period and consequently notification was given by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport that the power to confirm the Order may be exercised by the Council in accordance with Section 14A of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981.
2. The Order as confirmed provides for the purchase for the purposes of preserving the listed building known as St Pauls Dockyard Church and the land described in Schedule 1
3. A copy of the Order as confirmed by the Council and of the map referred to therein have been deposited at Swale Borough Council Planning Reception, Floor 2 Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT and may be seen at all reasonable hours.
4. The order as confirmed becomes operative on the date on which this notice is first published. A person aggrieved by the order may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks from that date, challenge its validity under section 23 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981. The grounds for challenge can be that the authorisation granted by the order is not empowered to be granted or that there has been a failure to comply with any relevant statutory requirement relating to the order.
5. The Council may acquire any of the land described in Schedule 1 below by making a general vesting declaration under section 4 of the Compulsory Purchase (Vesting Declarations) Act 1981. This has the effect, subject to paragraph 8 below of vesting the land in the Council at the end of the period mentioned in paragraph 6 below. A declaration may not be made before the end of a period of two months from the first publication of a notice which includes this statement except with the consent in writing of every occupier of the land affected.
6. As soon as may be after the Council make a general vesting declaration, they must serve notice of it on every occupier of any of the land specified in the declaration (except land where there is one of the tenancies described in paragraph 7) and on every person who gives them information relating to the land in pursuance of the invitation contained in any notice. When the service of notices of the general vesting declaration is completed, a further period begins to run. This period, which must not be less than 28 days, will be specified in the declaration. On the first day after the end of this period ("the vesting date") the land described in the declaration will, subject to what is said in paragraph 8, vest in the Council together with the right to enter on the land and take possession of it. Every person on whom the Council could have served a notice to treat in respect of his interest in the land (other than a tenant under one of the tenancies described in paragraph 7) will be entitled to claim compensation for the acquisition of his interest in the land, with interest on the compensation from the vesting date.
7. In the case of certain tenancies, the position stated above is subject to modifications. The modifications apply where the tenancy is either a "minor tenancy" i.e. a tenancy for a year of a yearly tenancy or a lesser interest, or "a long tenancy which is about to expire". The latter expression means a tenancy granted for an interest greater than a minor tenancy but having on the vesting date a period still to run which is not more than the period specified in the declaration for this purpose (which must be more than a year). In calculating how long a tenancy has still to run, where any option to renew or to terminate it is available to either party, it shall be assumed that the landlord will take every opportunity open to him to terminate the tenancy while the tenant will use every opportunity to retain or renew his interest.
8. The modifications are that the Council may not exercise the right of entry referred to in paragraph 6 in respect of land subject to a tenancy described in paragraph 7 unless they first serve notice to treat in respect of the tenancy and then serve every occupier of the land with a notice of their intention to enter and take possession after the period (not less than 14 days from the service of this notice) specified in the notice. The right of entry will be exercisable at the end of that period. The vesting of the land will be subject to that tenancy until the end of that period or until the tenancy comes to an end, whichever happens first.
9. Every person who, if a general vesting declaration were made under section 4 of the Compulsory Purchase (Vesting Declarations) Act 1981 in respect of all land comprised in respect of which notice to treat has not been given, would be entitled to claim compensation in respect of any such land is invited to give information in the prescribed form with respect to his name and address and the land in question. Copies of the prescribed form a model of which is at Schedule 2 may be obtained from Swale Borough Council, Planning Reception, Floor 2, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT.

SCHEDULE 1
LAND COMPRISED IN THE ORDER AS CONFIRMED

One parcel of land of approximately 0.8 hectares comprising the property known as St. Pauls Dockyard Church, Naval Terrace, Sheerness Kent including the hard standing, the green and the avenue of trees.

SCHEDULE 2
FORM FOR GIVING INFORMATION
Swale Borough Council (St. Pauls Dockyard Church)
Compulsory Purchase Order 2012

To:……
(I) (We) being (a person) (persons) who, if a general vesting declaration were made under section 4 of the Compulsory Purchase (Vesting Declarations) Act 1981 in respect of all the land comprised in the compulsory purchase order cited above in respect of (all) (part of) that land, give you the following information pursuant to the provisions of section 3 of that Act.
1. Name and address of informant(s)
(i)……
……
2. Land in which an interest is held by informant(s)
(ii)……
……
3. Nature of interest
(iii)……
……
Signed……
(on behalf of……
Date……
(i) in the case of a joint interest insert the names and address of all informants
(ii) The land should be described concisely
(iii) If the interest is leasehold, the date of commencement and length should be given. If the land is subject to a mortgage or other incumbrance, details should be given e.g. name of building society and roll number.

Dated the 3rd day of January 2013.
THE COMMON SEAL of
SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Was hereunto affixed
in the presence of:-
Chief Executive - Abdool Kara

PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/03466/LBC **Cherry Trees The Green, Brenchley**
- Alterations to existing loft space to form ensuite bathroom, including staircase from first floor bedroom, single casement window on east elevation and conservation rooflights on south elevation (LB)

12/03493/FUL **27 High Street Cranbrook, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Reinstatement of upper part of building as self-contained dwelling. Structural repairs, including chimney reconstruction and facade repairs (retrospective) (CA) (LB)

12/03482/FUL **9 Grosvenor Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Installation of shopfront, 2 no. A/C condenser units and satellite dish (CA)

12/03454/HOUSE **Little Manor High Street, Hawkhurst**
- Demolition of existing garage/outbuilding; Construction of home office/studio and carport (LB)

12/03463/FUL **Scotney Castle Hastings Road, Lamberhurst**
- Replacement of existing sliding roof to woodchip storage silo & minor amendments to adjacent landscaping (LB)

12/03531/FUL **47 High Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- New shop front, bin store screen, new door, velux windows, ventilation flues, alterations to steps and railings and replacement false window infill panels (CA)

12/03374/HOUSE **The Coach House 5 Camden Hill, Park**
- New automated entrance gates, 1.8m boundary fencing garden shed and bin and log store (LB) (CA)

12/03375/FUL **Garages & Land Ferndale Point, Park**
- Removal of earth mound, excavation to suitable depth, filling with type 1 material and tarmaccing to provide addtional off-road parking space. Planting of hedge (species to be agreed) to east side of existing fence (CA)

12/03474/HOUSE **2 Oakfield Court Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Single storey rear extension (CA)

12/03491/HOUSE **Walnut Tree Cottage Pembury Road, Park**
- Construction of two storey front extension, single storey rear extension, canopy and porch roof to front and pitched roof over existing dormer window to front. Roof lights to west elevations and alterations to drive (CA)

12/03500/FUL **Constitutional Club 1 Sandrock Road, Park**
- Ground floor extension with void under at basement level (CA)

12/03551/LBC **Sarah Brown 20 Monson Road, Park**
- Listed Building Consent - Internal fit out of ground floor shop, creation of new office and stock/sort area and refurbishment of existing W.C. and tea point (LB)

12/03453/FULMJ **Land South Of Penns Yard, Pembury**
- 27 no. affordable rent residential units (2 x 2 bed and 7 x 3 bed houses, 6 x 1 bed and 4 x 2 bed flats, 8 x 2 bed maisonettes) with 48 car parking spaces, garden areas, communal amenity space, childrens play area and ecology receptor site: incorporating new access road and minor alterations to the existing parking arrangement for the existing affordable homes and relocation of lamp post (CA) (LB) (MAJOR)

12/03462/FUL **2 Fernhurst Crescent Southborough, Southborough Town Council**
- Two storey 3 bedroom house and single garage with associated external works and landscaping (CA)

12/03496/OUT **Land Rear Of Veryan And The Haven Vauxhall Lane, Southborough Town Council**
- Outline (Appearance, Landscaping and Scale reserved): Three detached dwellings with access to Manor Fields (CA)

12/03450/LBC **The Cottage Speldhurst Hill, Speldhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Widening of garage door and removal of interior toilet (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

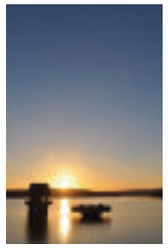
James Freeman
Head of Planning Services,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Dated: 12 January 2013

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notice
New Road Bridge over River Medway

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has carried out an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) under the Marine Works (EIA) Regulations 2007 (as amended) in relation to the Medway Valley Crossing Development.

In accordance with Regulation 22, the MMO has decided to grant EIA consent for the project, subject to certain conditions being imposed.

Full details of the decision, including the environmental information taken into consideration, the main reasons and considerations on which the EIA consent decision was based and the conditions attached to the consent can be found at http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/licensing/public_register/eia/consent.htm

This information may also be inspected free of charge during normal working hours at the MMO's office (a charge may be made for copies of data provided). Requests to inspect such information should be directed to: Marine Licensing Team Marine Management Organisation Lancaster House Hampshire Court Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7YH Tel: 0300 123 1032 Email: marine.consents@marinemanagement.org.uk

The Marine Works (EIA) Regulations 2007 (as amended) transpose, in relation to marine works, the EIA Directive (Council Directive 87/337/EEC of 27 June 1985, as amended).

The EIA for the Medway Valley Crossing Development was carried out following an application relating to the project for a Marine Licence under the Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009. Following EIA consent, the Regulator will consider authorising such applications.

PLANNING

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY)

(FOLKESTONE SEAFRONT AND THE STADE PARKING ZONE) ORDER 2012 (MARINE PARADE AND LOWER SANDGATE ROAD OPERATING TIMES) (AMENDMENT NO 2) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes the above Order under Sections 1, 2, 32, 44, 45 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order proposes to change the times of operation of the shared use resident pay and display bays from "all days" to "all days between 31st March and the 1st October" in the following streets:

ROADS IN FOLKESTONE

Marine Parade; South side, from a point 11.4 metres east of its junction with Lower Sandgate Road east for a distance of 121.6 metres; North side, from a point 36.7 metres east of its junction with Lower Sandgate Road east for a distance of 59.7 metres; North side, from a point 110.7 metres west of its junction with Marine terrace west for a distance of 34.7 metres; South side, from a point 61.6 metres west of its junction with Marine Terrace west for a distance of 80.3 metres; South side, from a point 22.8 metres west of its junction with Marine Terrace west for a distance of 32.9 metres; North side, from a point 14.5 metres east of its junction with Marine Terrace east for a distance of 12.0 metres; North side, from a point 30.8 metres east of its junction with Marine Terrace east for a distance of 15.0 metres; North side, from a point 53.6 metres east of its junction with Marine Terrace east for a distance of 30.7 metres

Lower Sandgate Road; South side, from a point 98 metres west of its junction with Marine Parade, west for a distance of 110 metres; South side, from a point 9 metres east of its junction with Lower Sandgate Road, west for a distance of 85 metres

A copy of the proposed Order, a copy of any Orders which may be affected by it, and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing the Order can be inspected at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

If you have any views about the proposed Order you should make them in writing to (Zone A), Parking Services, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY. Or email TRO.Consultation@shepway.gov.uk stating "Zone A" in the subject title.

We must receive any representations before 5pm on Monday 4th February 2013 for them to be considered. For legal reasons we cannot accept representations over the phone or in person.

If you have any questions concerning the Order or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Transportation Department), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853240 during normal office hours).

This notice is published by Shepway District Council on behalf of Kent Highway Services, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX. Kent Highway Services is part of Kent County Council.

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 11 OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Proposed development at land adjoining 21 Waterloo Street, Maidstone, ME15 7UH

Take notice that application is being made by Mr O Bussey for planning permission for change of use of part of verge to private amenity land for use in association with adjoining dwelling and erection of 1.2 metre high paling fence

Local planning authority to whom the application is being submitted:

Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ

Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the council within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Signed: Christopher Atkinson
Date: 9th January 2013

Statement of owner's rights

The grant of planning permission does not affect owner's rights to retain or dispose of their property, unless there is some contrary provision in an agreement or in a lease.

Statement of tenants' rights

The grant of planning permission for non-agricultural development may affect agricultural tenants' security of tenure.

"Owner" means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than 7 years.

"Tenant" means a tenant of an agricultural holding any part of which is comprised in the land.

SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Section 123(2A) Local Government Act 1972 Disposal of land forming part of an Open Space

Notice is hereby given that Swale Borough Council intends to dispose of a plot of land adjacent to 90 Upper Brents, Faversham, Kent ME13 7DL measuring approximately One Hundred and Ninety Four (194) square metres. A plan showing the land edged red can be inspected at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT during normal office hours.

Any objection to the disposal should be addressed to the Head of Legal Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT (Ref. CJS/S002607) within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Mr M Radford
Director of Corporate Services
Swale Borough Council
Swale House East Street
Sittingbourne Kent ME10 3HT

Dated: 8 January 2013

Swale



MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Birchwood Park Golf Centre, Birchwood Road, Wilmington**
Applicant: **Melanie Drake**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this notice. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

Kent

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Hop Farm, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood**
Applicant: **Karl Morgan**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

Kent

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made by Mr Thomas of Sea House, North Foreland Avenue, Broadstairs to Kent County Council, to grant an approval for a ceremony at this premise.

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper.

Objections should be sent to the following address

Cath Anley, Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre, James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Notice of an Application fro the Grant of a Premises Licence (Licensing Act)

Notice is hereby given that Graham Peter Austen has applied to Ashford Borough Council for the GRANT OF PREMISES LICENCE for a recorded music on and off alcohol and hours and days. For the premises Barbers Arms, situated at 169 Bridge Street, Wye TN25 5DT.
A register of licensing applications can be viewed at the Licensing Section, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL 01233 330721 by appointment.
Any person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above giving to details the grounds of objection by 1st Feb 2013. Dated this 4th day of January 2013.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE AREA OF CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB293 IN THE PARISH OF BISHOPSBOURNE (PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB293)

(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath CB293 between Woodgate Road and the junction with Bridleway CB279A (NGR TR 168 500) from the 25th January 2013

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Woodgate Road, Public Footpaths CB294 and Public Bridleway CB279A and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Louise Adams

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

NOTICE OF AN EXTENSION OF AN ORDER TEMPORARILY CLOSING PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB92 IN THE PARISH OF WESTBERE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB92 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

The Secretary of State for Transport has directed that the Order made by Kent County Council on 16th July 2012, the effect of which was to prohibit all traffic from Public Footpath CB92 has been extended until 15th July 2013 or until completion of the works, whichever is earlier.

The path is closed at Westbere level crossing, between Walnut Tree Lane and Westbere Marshes.

The alternative route, within Network Rail land, will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Louise Adams

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 13th January 2013

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

To advertise in this section
01303 817056

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Maidstone Borough Council

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 that the Maidstone Borough Council proposes to dispose of the freehold interest in approximately 115 sq. metres (137.5 sq. yards) of land at Bushy Grove, Kingswood.

Further details of this disposal may be obtained from the office of the Assistant Director of Environment and Regulatory Services, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ, where the plan may be inspected during normal office hours.

Objections to this proposal should be sent in writing to the Assistant Director of Environment & Regulatory Services at the above address, not later than 11 February 2013.

Steve Goulette
Assistant Director of Environment and Regulatory Services
Dated 12 January 2013.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

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HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

COLDBLOW, WOODCHURCH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Coldblow (Lane), Woodchurch, on or after 14 January 2013 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Newhurst Farm and Coldblow Farm.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Shadoxhurst Road and the eastern end of Spot House Lane.

The alternative route is via Shadoxhurst Road, Spot House Lane, Place Lane, Lower Road, Front Road, B2067 Brook Street (Appledore Road), Kenardington Road, Warehorne Road, School Hill and Spot House Lane.

HIGHBURY LANE, TENTERDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply to Highbury Hall Youth Club, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Highbury Lane, Tenterden, on or after 28 January 2013 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via A28 High Street and Bridewell Lane.

(LEACON LANE, WESTWELL LEACON, DISTRICT OF ASHFORD) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL acting as the Local Traffic Authority under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984 hereby makes the above named Order:

The effect of the named Order (Prohibition of Waiting) will introduce new or to amend existing waiting restrictions in the following lengths of road (in this part of the notice DYL means waiting to be prohibited at all times by double yellow lines.

DISTRICT OF ASHFORD:

Leacon Lane; DYL, that length that extends from a point 13 metres northwest of its junction with the A20 Maidstone Road lay-by to point 13 metres southeast of that junction.

Leacon Lane; DYL, both sides, that length that extends to a point 10 metres southwest of its junction with the A20 Maidstone Road lay-by.

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation on Monday 21st January 2013 and any Orders which will be amended by the Order, a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order and maps indicating the location and effect may be examined at the Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX and at the Kent Highway offices, Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford TN24 8AD during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

(SCHOOL ROAD, HOTHFIELD, DISTRICT OF ASHFORD) (DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL acting as the Local Traffic Authority under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984 hereby makes the above named Order:

AREA ON ROAD DESIGNATED AS DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACE

That part of **SCHOOL ROAD** which is bounded on the eastern edge of the carriageway of that highway which extends from a point 6.20 metres southwest of the common boundary of Houses No.20 and No.22 for a distance of 6.15 metres in a north-easterly direction and which has a width throughout of 2.40 metres.

Full details are contained in the Order, any Orders which will be amended by the Order, a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order and maps indicating the location and effect may be examined at the Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX and at the Kent Highway offices, Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford TN24 8AD during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

STATION ROAD (WATERY LANE), WESTWELL, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a bridge safety inspection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Station Road (Watery Lane), Westwell, Ashford, on or after 17 January 2013, as shown below.

The planned closure times are from Thursday 17 January 2013 at 22:00 hrs until Friday 18 January at 06:00 hrs.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the brick arch railway bridge for the domestic railway.

The alternative route is via Station Road, A20 Maidstone Road, Sandyhurst Lane, Westwell Lane and Watery Lane.

WATER LANE, SMARDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to repair the Chequers Inn following accident damage, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Water Lane, Smarden, on or after 28 January 2013 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with The Street.

The alternative route is via Bell Lane, Smarden Bell Lane, Burnthouse Lane, Biddenden Road and Cage Lane.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

HARBOUR STREET, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Harbour Street, Whitstable, on or after 14 January 2013 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Albert Street and Woodlawn Street.

This closure will have the following effects on traffic in Whitstable

HARBOUR STREET

- There will be no access to westbound through traffic between the junctions with Cromwell Road and The High Street. Access will be maintained up to The Harbour.
- There will be no through access for westbound traffic beyond the western entrance to The Harbour
- The alternative route is via Cromwell Road, Oxford Street and High Street
- The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Harbour Street will be suspended between Albert Street and High Street, to allow two-way access to shops and car park

CROMWELL ROAD - will be closed to eastbound traffic at the junction with Oxford Street.

- There will be no access into Cromwell Road from Oxford Street
- The alternative through route is via Oxford Street, High Street, Sea Street and Cromwell Road

WOODLAWN STREET - There will be No Left Turn into Harbour Street.

SEA STREET, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because works to refurbish a public house, together with new service connections to a nearby property, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2205 Sea Street, Whitstable, on or after 20 January 2013, as described below.

This will have the following effects on traffic in Whitstable.

SEA STREET - will be closed at the junction with Red Lion Lane.

- There will be no access for through traffic between the junction with Red Lion Lane and where it joins Harbour Street
- The alternative route is via Harbour Street.
- The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Sea Street will be suspended from the point of closure to the junction with Harbour Street, for access only.
- There will be No Right Turn from Sea Street into the northern junction with Harbour Street.

HARBOUR STREET - will be closed to westbound traffic from the western entrance to The Harbour.

- There will be no access to westbound through traffic between the junctions with Cromwell Road and High Street. Access will be maintained up to The Harbour.
- The alternative route is via Cromwell Road, Oxford Street and High Street
- The One-way Traffic Order between the Woodlawn Street and High Street will be reversed, so that traffic flows eastbound from the High Street direction
- The bus stops will be moved to the north side of Harbour Street, with some parking will allowed on the south side

CROMWELL ROAD - will be closed to east bound traffic at the junction with Oxford Street.

- There will be no access into Cromwell Road from Oxford Street
- The alternative route is via Oxford Street, High Street, Harbour Street and Cromwell Road

HIGH STREET - Will be closed to southbound traffic at the junction with Terrys Lane

- Traffic will be routed via Harbour Street, Cromwell Road, Oxford Street and High Street

HORSEBRIDGE ROAD - The one-way order Traffic Order will be suspended to allow access from the junction with Red Lion Lane to the junction with Terrys Lane

RED LION LANE - There will be No Right Turn into Harbour Street.

VICTORIA STREET, ALBERT STREET & WOODLAWN STREET There will be No Left Turn into Harbour Street from each of these roads.

Once work is completed on the eastern side of the Public House, the road network will revert to normal, with the following exception.

RED LION LANE will then be closed at the junction with Sea Street / Horsebridge Road for up to 3 weeks.

There is no alternative route, and access remains from Harbour Street.

The start date for these works will depend on progress with the earlier phase.

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

CANADA FARM ROAD, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of detailed examination works of the railway bridge, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Canada Farm Road, Dartford on or after 18th January 2013 for up to 1 night or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Main Road and Rabbits Road and there will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via: Green Street, Green Road, Gills Road, Homesdale Hill, Shrubbery Road and Rabbits Road.

WHITEHILL ROAD LONGFIELD DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Whitehill Road, Longfield Dartford, on or after 29th January 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Main road to the junction of Highcross Road. There will be no access for through traffic at this point.

The alternative route is Via Highcross Road, Sandbanks Hill, Green Street and Main road.

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

BOYES LANE, GOODNESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace telegraph poles, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Boyes Lane, Goodnestone, on or after 16 January 2013 for up to 1 day, between 09:30 hrs and 15:30 hrs.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Saddlers Hill and Cave Lane.

The alternative route is via Cave Lane, Buckland Lane and Catsole Hill.

VARIOUS ROADS, SHEPHERDSWELL TO WHITFIELD (TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

As part of Highways Agency works to renew streetlighting on the A2 Trunk Road, Kent County Council has made an Order restricting traffic on various roads which join the A2 Trunk Road between Shepherdswell to Whitfield, on or after 14 January 2013, as shown below.

LYDDEN HILL - between 14-23 January 2013 inclusive, between 20:00 hrs and 06:00 hrs each night, there will be a temporary maximum speed limits of 40 mph and 10 mph, in conjunction with Convoy working, where traffic is escorted through roadworks, as follows

Southbound Carriageway - there will be a temporary mandatory speed limit of 10 mph, from the junction with the A2 for a distance of 100 metres, in conjunction with Convoy working

Northbound Carriageway - there will be a temporary mandatory speed limit of 10 mph for a distance of 140 metres towards the junction with the A2 Trunk Road, in conjunction with Convoy working

In advance of the 10 mph speed restriction, there will be a temporary mandatory speed limit of 40 mph for a distance of 165 metres towards the 10 mph speed limit

Service Road - the One-way road signposted 'U-Turn' opposite Husk depot entrance will be closed when signed; traffic will be diverted along the Lydden Hill southbound to the unmarked road slightly further on

GEDDINGE LANE, WOOTTON - between 22-30 January 2013 inclusive, between 20:00 hrs and 06:00 hrs each night, there will be a temporary maximum speed limits of 40 mph and 10 mph, as shown below

A temporary mandatory speed limit of 10 mph from the junction with the A2 for a distance of 120 metres, in conjunction with Convoy working, where traffic is escorted through roadworks

A temporary mandatory speed limit of 40 mph from the 10 mph speed restriction southwards for a distance of 285 metres

The speed limits apply in both directions on the affected sections of road, when signage is displayed

COXHILL (LANE), SHEPHERDSWELL - will be closed from 1-8 February 2013 inclusive, between 20:00 hrs and 06:00 hrs each night

The closure is from the junction with the coastbound carriageway of the A2 to near the entrance to Hope Wood Farm

The alternative route is via A2 Trunk Road to Honeywood Junction, A256 Whitfield Bypass, Barville Road, Wigmore Lane, Shepherdswell Road and Eythorne Road to Coxhill Road.

For non-HGV traffic, an alternative diversion is via the A2 to Coldred Hill junction, Church Road, Coldred Road, Sandwich Road, Wigmore Lane, Shepherdswell Road and Eythorne Road to Coxhill Road

SINGLEDGE LANE, WHITFIELD will be closed between 11-19 February 2013, at the junction with the coastbound carriageway of the A2 to the junction of the cul-de-sac section, with no access to or from the A2.

The alternative route is via the A2 to Whitfield Roundabout, Sandwich Road, Nursery Lane and Singledge Lane.

COLDRED HILL, LYDDEN & SHEPHERDSWELL - between 21 February and 1 March 2013, there will be a temporary mandatory speed limit of 40 mph in both directions for a distance of 50 metres from the respective junctions with the A2 Trunk Road.

All speed limits apply when the relevant signage is displayed in site.

HIGHWAYS - GRAVESEND AREA

GOLD STREET COBHAM, GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow BT access to overhead network cables for a new customer connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Gold Street Cobham, on or after 30th January 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from junction Sole Street on Gold Street to junction Batts Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

The alternative route is via Sole Street, The Street, Cobhambury Road Luddesdown Road, Henley Street

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

CHATHAM ROAD, BOXLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to replace damaged street lights and for general maintenance on existing columns, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chatham Road, Boxley, on or after 18 January 2013 for up to 1 night between 20.00hrs and 05.00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The Chatham Road northbound slip between The Running Horse roundabout and Cobtree Roundabout will be closed.

The alternative route is southbound traffic via A229 Royal Engineers roundabout and return and for M2 coastbound traffic via A229 Royal Engineers roundabout and return, Bluebell Hill, Lord Lees Roundabout, southbound Bluebell Hill, onto coastbound M20 slip.

GOUDHURST ROAD, STAPLEHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Goudhurst Road, Staplehurst, on or after 28 January 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Pinnock Lane to Pristling Lane.

The alternative route is via Pristling Lane, Five Oak Lane.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

IVY HOUSE LANE, OTFORD, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of detailed railway bridge examination works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ivy House Lane, Otford, Sevenoaks, on or after 19th January 2013 for up to 1 night or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with London Road and Pilgrims Way East. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via Pilgrims Way, London Road.

LULLINGSTONE LANE, EYNSFORD, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of detailed examination works of the railway viaduct bridge, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lullingstone Lane, Eynsford, Sevenoaks, on or after 26th January 2012 for up to 1 night or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed either side of the viaduct.

There will be no access for through traffic at this point.

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

CASTLE HILL AVENUE, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting waiting on part of Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, on or after 14 January 2013 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Waiting will be prohibited at any time on the northbound carriageway of Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, between the junctions with Bouverie Road West and Shorncliffe Road, on all sections of road where there are no existing restrictions.

This applies when the relevant signage and no waiting cones are on site.

HIGHWAYS - SWALE AREA

LOWER HARTLIP ROAD, HARTLIP (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a CCTV and geophysical survey on a borehole to evaluate its condition, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lower Hartlip Road, Hartlip, on or after 16 January 2013 for up to 1 day between 09:00 hrs and 15:00 hrs.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Holly House Farm.

The alternative route is via Yaugher Lane and Magpie Lane.

B2006 MILL WAY, SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to plane and resurface the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2006 Mill Way, Sittingbourne, on or after 17 January 2013 for up to 10 days, as shown below.

Closures are planned from Thursday 17 January to Friday 25 January 2013 inclusive (except Saturday 19 January).

The planned closure times are between 20:00 hrs and 06:00 hrs each night

The road will be closed between St Paul's Street and Milton Road, with no through access.

The alternative route is via B2006 St Paul's Street, Staplehurst Road, A2 Bobbing Interchange, Sheppey Way, A2 Key Street Roundabout, A2 Key Street, London Road, St Michael's Road (plus Dover Street and West Street in reverse), Crown Quay Lane and Eurolink Way.

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

HONEYSUCKLE ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway widening and highway works for a new development, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Honeysuckle Road, Ramsgate, on or after 14 January 2013 for up to 6 months or until the works have been completed.

Honeysuckle Road will be closed at the southern junction with A255 Hereson Road.

The alternative route is via Hereson Road and the northern junction of Honeysuckle Road.

Please note that this date differs from that initially publicised.

MARSH FARM ROAD, MINSTER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of bridge repair works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Marsh Farm Road, Minster, on or after 14 January 2013 for up to 10 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at Marsh Farm Road Bridge.

There is no alternative route as Marsh Farm Road is a No Through Road. Every effort will be made to allow any essential access.

WARDOUR CLOSE, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wardour Close, Broadstairs, on or after 14 January 2013 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of numbers 22 to 31.

Access remains from either end of Wardour Close up to the point of closure. The alternative route for through traffic is via Prospect Road, Thanet Road, Albion Street, High Street and Belmont Road.

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING

BARMING ROAD, WATERINGBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new telegraph pole, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Barming Road, Wateringbury, on or after 28 January 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Wateringbury Road for 250 metres.

The alternative route is via North Pole Road, North Street, A26 Tonbridge Road, Malling Road.

HALL ROAD, WOULDHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new water main, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hall Road, Wouldham, on or after 28 January 2013 for up to 86 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Knowle Road to the end of Hall Road.

The alternative route is via Knowle Road, Rochester Road, Scarborough Lane.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

NORTH FARM ROAD/DOWDING WAY, TUNBRIDGE WELLS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of track renewal works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on North Farm Road/Dowding Way, Tunbridge Wells, on or after 3 February 2013 for up to 1 night between 01.20hrs and 04.00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via North Farm Road, Sandhurst Road, Birken Road, Liptraps Lane, Lamberts Road, Dowding Way

VARIOUS ROADS, TUNBRIDGE WELLS (RESURFACING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a programme of carriageway patching and surface treatment works to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to restrict traffic on various roads in Kent, as shown below.

The Order will become effective on or after 28th January 2013 for up to 18 months, or until the works have been completed.

The planned dates and times for each road closure or restriction are shown below.

Planned dates will be indicated by signage displayed on site 14 days in advance. Road closures and other restrictions will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers are in place. **Each road indicated will need to be closed once for prepatching works (as per the schedule below) and a second time for the actual surface treatment works (Surface dressing or microsurfacing) later in the year (These dates will be advertised on information boards on each site, 14 days in advance of commencement).**

Every effort will be made to keep to the schedule shown below. Some minor modifications may be made to dates and duration of works, to be advised once known.

Adverse weather conditions may prevent some works being carried out on the planned dates.

Roads that are missed will be re-scheduled, as advised locally and signposted on site.

SCHEDULE

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

OLD HOUSE ROAD, FORDCOMBE - closed between B2168 Fordcombe Road and Leggs Lane.
28 - 31 January 2013 - 0830hrs to 1730hrs.
Alternative route via B2168 Fordcombe Road, The Lane and Old House Road. (And vice versa)

DIG DOG LANE, FRITTENDEN - closed between C89 Frittenden Road and C146 Hareplain Road (At the Three Chimneys Public House).
28 January to 8 February 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs
Alternative route via Hareplain Road, U1718 Biddenden Road, C89 The Street and Frittenden Road (And vice versa)

ETHNAM LANE, SANDHURST - closed for its whole length
31 January to 1 February 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs
(No alternative route as this is a no through road)

BUBHURST LANE, FRITTENDEN - closed for its whole length
4 February to 5 February 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs
(No alternative route as this is a no through road)

BABBS LANE, BENENDEN - B2086 Mounts Hill to Nineveh Lane.
18 to 22 February 2013. 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via Coldharbour Road, Iden Green Road and B2086 Cranbrook Road (And vice versa).

FRIEZLEY LANE, GOUDHURST - closed for its whole length
25 to 28 February, 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs
(No alternative route as this is a no through road).

KNOWLE LANE, BRENCHLEY - closed between Mile Oak Road and Knowle Road.
1 to 3 March 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.
Alternative route via Knowle Road, Crook Road, Pixot Hill and Mile Oak Road.

VAUXHALL LANE, SOUTHBOROUGH - closed between A26 London Road and Vauxhall Lane at Cottage Hospital entrance.
4 to 8 March 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.
Alternative route via Vauxhall Lane, A2014 Pembury Road, A26 Quarry Hill Road and A26 London Road. (And vice versa).

LADY OAK LANE, GOUDHURST - A21to Balcombes Hill.
11 - 15 March 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.
Alternative route via Balcombes Hill, A262 West Road, Clayhill, Station Road, B2162 Lamberhurst Road, School Hill, The Broadway, Spray Hill and A21 London Road. (And vice versa).

ROGERS ROUGH ROAD, GOUDHURST - Lady Oak Lane to Church Road, Kilndown
25 to 29 March 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.
Alternative Route via B2079 Lady Oak Lane, Bedgebury Road, Peasley Lane and Ranters Lane. (And vice versa)

PRIORS HEATH, GOUDHURST - B2079 Lady Oak Lane to Roger's Rough Road.
25 to 29 March 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.
Alternative Route via B2079 Lady Oak Lane, Bedgebury Road, Peasley Lane and Ranters Lane. (And vice versa)

CHICKS LANE, GOUDHURST - Rogers Rough Road to Church Road, Kilndown.
25 to 29 March 2013. 0830hrs to 1730hrs.
Alternative Route via Church Road, Kilndown, Ranters Lane, Peasley Lane, B2079 Bedgebury Road and Lady Oak Lane. (And vice versa)

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 13th January 2013**

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DARTS

Taking part is a bonus for heart attack darts ace



OUT: Steve Douglas lost 4-1 in second round

STEVE Douglas overcame a heart attack to put in a credible performance at the BDO World Darts Championship.

The 35-year-old from Gillingham was rushed to hospital a week before Christmas with severe chest pains, which turned out to be a heart attack caused by a blocked artery.

He had emergency surgery to put in a stent, and defied the odds to make it to the World Championships at Lakeside, in Frimley Green, Surrey, last week. He crashed out on Tuesday night to number four seed Tony O'Shea, but was happy just to be there.

"Maybe it's the medication I am having but I felt so calm during my first-round match," he told The Sun.

"It was the best and calmest I have ever felt because I had expected to get bashed. Just being in this tournament is a bonus for me. When people say it's the taking part that counts not the winning, well that is certainly the case for me."

He also revealed the heart attack has forced him to quit smoking.

"I used to be a 40-50 a day man but I haven't touched one since," he said.

He came through his first round tie on Sunday afternoon with a 3-1 win over Gary Stone.

It set up a second round clash against last year's runner-up O'Shea, who proved too strong for the man known as 'The Game' as he clinched a 4-1 victory.

Douglas made his World Championship debut at the age of 22, but had a long wait before his next appearance in 2011.

That year he reached the last 32, while also reaching the final of the Latvia Open, the semi-finals of the Mariflex Open, and Luxembourg Open. He also made the quarter finals of the Scottish and British Opens.

Last year he equalled his best appearance at Lakeside by reaching the last 16, as he did on his debut in 2000.

Douglas is a product of the county youth system and has made more than 100 appearances for both Kent and London. He was capped for England for the first time in 1999.

SNOOKER

Hawkins lining up further success after finally being in the right frame of mind

A new approach and the guidance of a former snooker legend has seen Barry Hawkins enjoy his best season in the game, as **Greg Miles** finds out

SNOOKER'S Barry Hawkins can count himself in good company when it comes to his mentor's fellow pupils and their respective trophy cabinets.

Former world champions Stephen Hendry, Ronnie O'Sullivan and Mark Williams have all been given guidance by Welsh legend Terry Griffiths, who Hawkins credits with playing a big part in the most successful year of his career to date.

The Ditton ace is now hoping for a successful 2013, starting on Tuesday in his Betfairs Masters first round tie against one of the sport's brightest talents, current world number two, Judd Trump. Hawkins will be looking to build on winning his first ranking trophy last year, the Australia Goldfields Open.

Griffiths, who's been overseeing the development of Hawkins' mental approach to the game, became a household name after winning the world championship in 1979, while also claiming the Masters the following year .

He was one of the biggest names of a golden generation in the sport during its eighties heyday, alongside the likes of Steve Davis, Cliff Thorburn and the late Alex 'Hurricane' Higgins.

He's spent the last 12 years successfully coaching some of the world's top players and last year turned his attention to Hawkins who was desperate to become more of a threat at tournaments having failed to win one of note in his 16-year professional career.

"I have been working with Terry for the last year to try to improve the mental side of my game, as well as a couple of technical things," the 33-year-old said.

"He joined the management company I'm with and a couple of months later I phoned him. I had nothing to lose. We get on really well.

"I was always beating myself up, which is hard not to do when things aren't always going well. It's good having someone around who understands. It's quite simple things really; like talking to him in the intervals, taking my mind off what's happened by thinking about my family or something else.



HELPING HAND: Barry has improved his game with the help of ex-world champion Terry Griffiths

"I was doing alright for a certain amount of time, but I wanted to push on and threaten to win tournaments and get up the rankings. I knew it was something I needed to work on."

Despite possibly suffering a lack of mental strength throughout his career he insists he's not the shy and retiring type.

He said: "Growing up in a snooker club at the age of 12, and especially in London, that's not the case. You can't really be shy in that environment.

"Maybe it's a bit of self-confidence with my game. I'm thinking 'am I good enough?', and watching other players thinking 'they are better than me'.

"Watching people on TV when I was younger and then playing against them was quite intimidating earlier in my career. But you have to put that out of your mind.

"I've had quite a lot of experience, I don't really fear anyone now."

Having relaxed with his family over Christmas he started three weeks of intense training after New Year's Day to get in shape for his tie against former UK champion Judd who he faced three times last year, winning twice.

Judd rose to world number one at the age of 23 in November last year, but dropped back to number two following Mark Selby's victory over Graeme Dott at the Munich Open this week.

Despite that, the Bristolian is tipped for big things, and is already a popular figure for his quick style of play and enthusiasm to drag snooker back into the mainstream.

However, Hawkins, ranked 17th in the world, is not phased by his opponent's status.

"I'm looking forward to going to Alexandra Palace (in London), it looks like a good atmosphere," he said.

"I went there and watched the darts, but it will be a different atmosphere this time around.

"You get chances whoever you play against.

FOOTBALL

Ba, Beardsley and Bullard – the case of Gills' nearly men

THE phrase 'if only' couldn't be more prevalent when it comes to the ones that got away, as Gillingham would find out when Premiership ace and new Chelsea star Demba Ba found fame.

It was revealed last week that the Gills were one of a number of clubs to have passed up the chance to sign the Senegalese striker when he was on trial in 2005, albeit playing as a midfielder back then.



But he's not the only one to have escape the clutches of the club with others including a certain ex Liverpool and England international Peter Beardsley who came to Medway with Steve Bruce in the late 1970s, only to be rejected while Bruce signed on.

Gills legend Nicky Southall revealed Jimmy Bullard was the one that got away in his time at the club, as he nearly signed during Peter Taylor's reign. Bullard started out at Corinthian, before joining Gravesend & Northfleet (Ebbsfleet United), and later propelled Wigan Athletic to the Premier League.

"Jimmy was the one I remember," he said.

"That was a massive mistake. You get loads of trialists coming in, especially in pre-season.

"You see them one day, and then probably not the next, and you might only know them by their first name.

"You can easily miss them. Every club could say the same."

Former captain Chris Hope, pictured left, also remembers Ipswich Town's new loan signing striker Aaron McLean at training.

"I remember Mama Sidibe would turn up with a different African footballer every week," he said. "I'm sure we had Aaron Mclean there for a bit as well. Every week we would have different trialists. It was a conveyor belt really."

...and the whatifs?

THERE are some players you just shouldn't pass up the chance to buy.

Liverpool and Sheffield Wednesday missed out on Eric Cantona before he signed for Leeds in 1992.

Martin O'Neill signed Emile Heskey in 2009, instead of Athletico Madrid's Radamel Falcao, who was then playing for River Plate in Argentina.

Toon legend Alan Shearer was rejected by Newcastle as a teenager after playing in goal on trial at St James' Park.

But strangest was TV Gladiator Wolf (real name Michael van Wijk) who played one game for Gillingham's reserve team in 1994, going off injured after 73 minutes.



BARRY'S LIFE ON THE BAIZE

Born: April 23, 1979, Dartford.
Lives: Ditton
Turned professional: 1996
World Snooker Tour prize money: £102,010

BARRY Hawkins first caught the national attention when he knocked out Ronnie O'Sullivan at the 2002 Scottish Open.

Since then he's gone on to establish himself among the top players in the game, ranking inside the top 32 in the last eight successive seasons in succession.

Before 2012, he'd reached semi-finals in ranking tournaments at the Welsh Open in 2005, 2006, the Grand Prix in 2005, and the China Open in 2007.

Last January was a big breakthrough for the 33-year-old as he first won the Snooker Shoot-Out, a one-frame knockout event with a shot clock in Blackpool, claiming £32,000 in prize money with a win over Graeme Dott.

He picked up his first ranking title in July at the Australian Goldfields Open in Bendigo, where he defeated Xiao Guodong, Matthew Stevens, Matthew Selt and Mark Davis to reach the final where he overcame Peter Ebdon in stunning fashion winning 9-3.

HAWKINS' HEAD-TO-HEAD

BARRY will encounter an old foe at The Betfair Masters in Alexandra Palace, London when he plays Judd Trump in the first round on Tuesday, an opponent who met three times in 2012:

Shanghai Masters (last 32) – **Lost 3-5**
Euro Players Tour Championship (last 32) – Won **4-3**
Six Red World Championship (last 48) – **Won 5-2**

"I was doing alright for a certain amount of time, but I wanted to push on and threaten to win tournaments

BARRY HAWKINS, ON CHANGE OF APPROACH

It's just a matter of taking them. I have beaten him before, we will have to see what happens.

"If I can settle down quickly then I have a chance. If you're going to win a tournament you're going to have to beat them all anyway.

"Playing him in the first round is as good a time as any because we are both going in cold."

It was a relief for Hawkins to have finally added a major title to his cabinet in Australia in July. It followed his triumph at the Snooker Shout-Out non-ranking tournament in Blackpool this time last year.

"Winning a ranking tournament is what I have been trying to do since I started," he said.

"Winning the one in Australia came out of the blue really, I suppose winning the Shoot-Out earlier in the year gave me a bit of confidence.

"All of a sudden it was like a great weight lifted off my shoulders."

Hawkins said he wants to thank Jordans Pool & Snooker Lounge in Rainham where he trains for their support.

■ **Barry Hawkins' match will be on shown live on BBC Two from 1pm-6pm on Tuesday.**

YOUTH OLYMPICS

Future stars set for a taste of Olympic action on world stage at Australian youth festival

KENT'S most promising Olympic hopefuls will be testing their talents on the world stage this week in the Youth Olympic Festival in Australia.

The young stars, many of whom are already making their mark in their respective sports, will have an eye on representing Great Britain at the Rio Games in four years time.

Before then, however, they are set to compete for GB against 1,700 other athletes from 30 nations in Sydney.

The competition, which takes place every four years on the other side of the world, brings together the majority of the Olympic sports with young athletes aged from 13 to 19.

It takes place from Wednesday to Sunday this week, with many of the sports being hosted at the 2000 Olympic Games venues in Sydney.

Those in the 120-strong Team GB squad to have jetted Down Under include Canterbury hockey club prospect Ross Gilham-Jones.

The 20-year-old from Hythe is in the 16-man squad alongside 18-year-old former Bromley & Beckenham ace Rob Farrington, from West Wickham.

Gilham-Jones' club team-mate, 20-year-old keeper Diccon Stubbings, was named as a reserve for the competition, while Canterbury Ladies star Grace Balsdon is a reserve for the GB women's hockey team.

Maidstone gymnasts Courtney Tulloch and James Hall, both 17 and members of Pegasus Gymnastics Club, will make the trip to New South Wales.

Deal rower Luke Moon, 19, is included in the single sculls, quadruple sculls and men's eight at the regatta where he will be joined by Pembury's Timothy Grant who is also in the eight as well as the pairs and the four.

Tunbridge Wells rower Georgia Francis, 18, was named as a reserve.

Gravesend's Sophie Coldwell, 17, is one of two women selected to take part in the triathlon.

Picture: ALAN EDWARDS



TALENTED: Courtney Tulloch

BOB SKELETON

Yarnold agonisingly close to third podium

WEST Kingsdown's bob skeleton star Lizzy Yarnold narrowly missed out on her third World Cup podium of the season in Germany.

The 23-year-old was the fastest Britain as she finished fourth in the World Cup in Altenberg last week.

Her first run of 47.20 seconds left her fifth in the field, but she improved on her second run to clock a time of 46.60 seconds which left her fourth, just 0.06 seconds behind third-placed Noelle Pikus-Pace of the USA.

Germany's Marion Thees won the race with another American, Katie Uhlaender, second.

Yarnold's had a successful season to date and is currently second in the World Cup standings.

HOCKEY

Canterbury men top group to make semis

IT WAS a differing weekend for Canterbury's hockey teams in the Maxifuel Supersixes Indoor Championship.

Canterbury men booked their place in the semi-finals with four wins on the final weekend of action. They face East Grinstead at Wembley on Sunday, January 27.

Canterbury women had a weekend to forget as they finished fifth, a place outside qualification for the semi-finals after losing their last four games.

Sevenoaks men's and ladies teams will be gunning for promotion to the Premier League this weekend as they both sit third in Division One, outside the top two promotion places.

ICE HOCKEY

Parrish won't tolerate abuse from rival fans

INVICTA Dynamos coach Kevin Parrish hopes to see the back of intimidating behaviour from fans in ice hockey.

The Dynamos bench were subjected to threatening behaviour from a group of Romford Raiders' fans on their trip to Essex last Sunday in their 5-3 loss. It started when Nathaniel Rose clashed with an opposing player on, and then off the ice at the end of the game.

"There were a lot of threats from fans; nothing spilt over, but it could have done," said Parrish.

"There's no need for fans to get involved. What happens on the ice stays on the ice. It's okay to have banter, but there's a fine line.

"We won't put up with it at our rink."

FOOTBALL

Bay switch keepers as loyal Eason departs

HERNE Bay have signed Whitstable Town keeper Rob French to fill the void left by Dan Eason who's departed for Hythe Town.

French started his career with Ebbsfleet United, before moving to Faversham Town and then Bay's rivals Whitstable in the summer.

Eason who's been at Winch's Field for five years has moved on for a new challenge.

Simon Halsey, manager of the Ryman One South side, said: "Everyone at the club is obviously gutted to be losing a player like Dan who has been fantastic for us, but that is football and I wish him every success."

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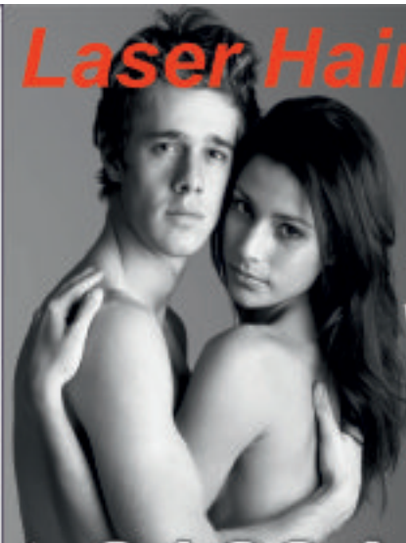
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